

The Iniquities of the Catholic Church

**Crimes committed
against Humanity and
the Human Spirit**

**Introduction to the
Series**

Antony Stockwell

Impartial history reveals that the Catholic Church has killed and harmed more people than any other organisation that has ever existed.

In the process, the Church has been the world's single largest perpetrator of wars, genocides and holocausts.

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This volume has been released by the author into the public domain

2022

Also by Antony Stockwell and released into the public domain

Pius XII: Fatal Manipulator of Men and Nations

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Prefatory Notes

New Catholic Encyclopedia states “‘Evil’ can be defined as that which opposes, or is the antithesis of, what is good.’ *Catholic Encyclopedia* declares that ‘evil, from the point of view of human welfare, is what ought not to exist.’

This volume is one of a series revealing the actions and inactions, by the self-proclaimed ‘One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church’, that have opposed, or were the antithesis of, what is good, and that ought not to have existed.

This Church is also known as the Catholic Church, the Roman Catholic Church, and the Church of Rome.¹

The Catholic Church – a Divine Society?

In the words of Jean-Baptiste de la Salle: ‘The church is the society of the faithful collected into one and the same body ...’² It is described in *Catholic Encyclopedia* (‘The Church’) as ‘a society formed of living men ... [it] will persist to the end of time, but further, that it will preserve unimpaired its essential characteristics.’

Catechism of the Catholic Church confirms:

752 In Christian usage, the word ‘church’ designates the liturgical assembly, but also the local community or the whole universal community of believers. These three meanings are inseparable.

873 The very differences which the Lord has willed to put between the members of his body serve its unity and mission. For ‘in the Church there is diversity of ministry but unity of mission. To the apostles and their successors Christ has entrusted the office of teaching, sanctifying and governing in his name and by his power. But the laity are made to share in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly office of Christ; they have therefore, in the Church and in the world, their own assignment in the mission of the whole People of God.’

Hence, it is crucial to recognise that the institutional Catholic Church comprises *both* the hierarchy *and* the laity. Its dark unimpaired ‘essential characteristics’ of these two facets are exposed throughout these volumes.

It is also pertinent, in the context of these volumes, to recognise:

Firstly, that ‘the whole universal community’ embraces, specifically, Catholic monarchs of their respective realms. Therefore, such devout persons as Ferdinand II of Aragón and Isabella I of Castile, the ‘fervent’ Roman Catholic sovereigns (los Reyes Católicos) who established the tribunal of the Spanish Inquisition (Inquisición española), constituted an inseparable part of the Roman Catholic Church. Contrary to this fact, apologists have claimed, for example, that the Spanish Inquisition was not a

¹ The First Vatican Council confirmed: the ‘Church herself, with her marvellous propagation, eminent holiness, and inexhaustible fruitfulness in everything good, her catholic unity and invincible stability, is a great and perpetual motive of credibility and an irrefutable witness of her divine mission.’ Historical evidence refutes these claims.

² de la Salle, Jean-Baptiste. *Les devoirs du chrétien envers Dieu, et les moyens de pouvoir bien s’en acquitter*

creation of the Church but merely a regal institution, conveniently ignoring the fact that the monarchs were Catholics and hence were an integral part of the Church. Also, ignoring the fact that this Inquisition was specifically sanctioned by a papal bull of Sixtus IV in 1478. The number of killings by this inquisition is estimated to have been between 3,000 and 5,000.

Secondly, that apologetic claims have also been made that the Church executed no one. The absurdity of this claim is evident on at least two fronts:

1. In Rome, and at different periods in several of the provinces of Italy, the ecclesiastical and secular powers were both in the hands of the popes. The Roman Inquisition was Papal both in its inquiries and in its tortures and executions. Arnold of Brescia was murdered by a Papal official at the command of the pope; and also were all the victims of the Roman Inquisition down to the murder of Giordano Bruno in 1600.¹
2. The secular arm, which was required by the hierarchy to carry out the annihilations, comprised members of the Catholic laity – a defined component of the body Catholic.

The First Vatican Council confirmed that the:

Church herself, with her marvellous propagation, eminent holiness, and inexhaustible fruitfulness in everything good, her catholic unity and invincible stability, is a great and perpetual motive of credibility and an irrefutable witness of her divine mission.

Historical evidence categorically refutes these claims.

The Catholic Church teaches that it is the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church founded by Jesus Christ in his Great Commission,^{2,3} that its bishops are the successors of Christ's apostles, and that the pope is the successor to Saint Peter, upon whom primacy was conferred by Jesus Christ.⁴ It maintains that it practises the original Christian faith, preserving infallibility,⁵ passed down by sacred tradition:

Catechism of the Catholic Church states:

871 'The Christian faithful are those who, inasmuch as they have been incorporated in Christ through Baptism, have been constituted as the people of God; for this reason, since they have become sharers in Christ's priestly, prophetic, and royal office in their own manner, they are called to exercise the mission which God has entrusted to the Church to fulfill in the world ...'

Catholic Encyclopedia states that the Church is conceived 'as a body governed and

¹ McCabe, Joseph. *The True Story of the Roman Catholic Church*. Vol V. 'How People Were Made to Submit to Papal Power: Revolt and Bloodshed Enter the Story of Roman Catholic Despotism'. p60

² 'Vatican congregation reaffirms truth, oneness of Catholic Church'. *Catholic News Service* (2012)

³ Bokenkotter, Thomas. *A Concise History of the Catholic Church*. p7

⁴ These claims are refuted in a later volume of this series. For example, Peter was the *only* apostle called 'Satan' by Jesus [Mark 8:33, Luke 4:8].

⁵ Infallibility – the quality of never making an error. Hence, logically, the Church's wars, genocides, and anti-Semitism, for example, were not erroneous.

directed by Christ as the head.’ The Church is ‘the bride of Christ.’ ‘As the Divinely appointed teacher of revealed truth, *the Church is infallible*. This gift of inerrancy is guaranteed to it by the words of Christ.’ ‘The Church is the society of those who accept redemption, of those whom Christ “has chosen out of the world”.’¹

Consequently, the unrighteous Catholics who are recorded in these volumes, allegedly having been “chosen out of the world” by Christ, and allegedly being members of his ‘bride’, reflect the deplorable moral standards of the allegedly infallible, allegedly ‘Divinely appointed teacher of revealed truth’, namely, the self-proclaimed ‘One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church’ – a corporation² – ‘a political body’.³

Professor Heinrich Brueck, in his *History of the Catholic Church for Use in Seminaries and Colleges*, expressed the pivotal, obsessive Catholic concept of sin, and the official view that:

The Church is the kingdom of God on earth: it was instituted by Jesus Christ, and is directed by the Holy Ghost. *The object of it is to purify man from sin*, and to reunite him to God, his ultimate aim and end. It is not of this world,⁴ but for this world, and contains within itself a divine and a human element; the latter only admits of change and development.⁵

Catholic Slaughters and Holocausts

The term genocide is applied in this series in a broad sense to encompass: mass conversions under duress; the severe aftermaths of discriminatory laws; mass expulsions and their consequences; and mass murders.

The phrase ‘the Holocaust’, also known as ‘the Shoah’ (Hebrew: השואה, HaShoah, ‘the catastrophe’), generally refers to ‘the greatest crime registered in history’ in which approximately 6,000,000 Jews were killed by Hitler’s Nazi regime and its collaborators.

In these volumes, the word Holocaust is also applied to certain other genocides of Jews of an extreme nature. There has been a multitude of genocides perpetrated by Catholics against the Jews. Specifically, however, the term Holocaust has been assigned here to:

- the consequences of the Major Crusades to the Holy Land (the Crusades Holocaust)
- the pogroms at the time of the Black Death (the Black Death Holocaust);
- the Spanish Holocaust following the 1492 *Alhambra Decree* of expulsion;
- the Lithuanian, Croatian and Slovakian Holocausts of World War II, which were distinct in several ways from the Nazi Holocaust.

¹ Emphasis added.

² So described by *Catholic Encyclopedia*.

³ Lépiciér, Alexius H M. *Indulgences: Their Origin, Nature, and Development*. p35

⁴ This statement is contradicted by, for example, the many worldly, unholy popes that have ruled this corporation. Emphasis added.

⁵ Brueck, Heinrich. *History of the Catholic Church for Use in Seminaries and Colleges*. Vol I. p2

The Popes

The term ‘pope’ is derived from the Latin: ‘papa’, which is a child’s word for ‘father’.

The religious title ‘Pope’ is traditionally accorded to the Bishop of Alexandria (original) and the Bishop of Rome, as well as several other religious figures.

The Pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria is the leader of that Church. The Pope of the Greek Orthodox Church of Alexandria (an autocephalous Greek Orthodox Church within the wider communion of Orthodox Christianity) is also known as the Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa. The Pope of the Roman Catholic Church is also the Bishop of Rome and the leader of that Church.

The title ‘Holy Father’ is used by the Church to designate the pope.¹ *New Catholic Encyclopedia* (‘Popes, Election of’) states unequivocally:

Catholics accept on divine and Catholic faith that the Holy Father is the successor of Peter. He attains the primacy of Peter by succeeding to the See that Peter established.

Usage of this designation is a total rejection of the injunction of the biblical Jesus:

And call none your father upon earth; for one is your father, who is in heaven’.²

The Church tries by sleight of hand to nullify this requirement by interpolating in the biblical text:

But this does not hinder but that we are by the law of God to have a due respect ... for our ... spiritual fathers [1 Corinthians 4:15].

However, *1 Corinthians 4* was written merely by Paul.

Hereinafter the term pope, unless otherwise indicated, refers to the Catholic pope. Very many popes have been warmongers. Two examples of belligerent popes:

Julius II was a syphilitic sodomite, gambler and drinker. He is chiefly known as a soldier. His main and lasting passion was war. As a military strategist he had few rivals. Known as the ‘Warrior Pope’ and ‘Il Terribile’, he led his troops into battle on several occasions dressed in a full suit of armour.

Innocent III saw very clearly that there was a fermentation below the surface – a revolt against *papal power*. He resolved to crush the movement. He issued an edict ordering the *extermination* of all heretics. Thence, cities were drowned in blood, kingdoms were destroyed, art and civilisations perished, and the progress of the Western World was reverted and retarded for centuries; but not otherwise could heresies be arrested ‘and Rome saved’.

Consequently, the Albigensian Crusade was a turning point in the history of Christianity in that the head of the self-proclaimed Apostolic Church prescribed and orchestrated a war of extermination against Christians in a

¹ See, for example: *Holy Father*. https://www.vatican.va/holy_father/index.htm (2020)

² *Matthew 23:9*, Catholic Douay-Rheims Bible.

Christian land. Thus, did Innocent III set a precedent for a new kind of holy war that multiplied into the numerous Roman Catholic wars of religion, genocides and holocausts during the Middle Ages and later into the twentieth century. Not one of these was a 'Just War'.

Naively, *Catholic Encyclopedia* claims that the pope is 'the Vicar of Christ upon earth.' Notwithstanding this euphemistic assertion, very many popes have been evil, unholy, and unChristlike. Far from having been Vicars of Christ, some writers have justifiably claimed them to have been Anti-Christ – Vicars of the Devil. For example, *Alexander VI* was the most infamous pope in history.¹ A few details suffice here:

He was reputed to have committed his first murder when he was twelve – he repeatedly drove his sword into another boy's abdomen.

A chronicler recorded: 'As Rodrigo grew in years, so he also grew in pride and haughtiness, cruelty and tyranny, showing himself stern, implacable, vindictive and unpredictable in his actions.'

Borgia was notorious for his voracious sexual appetite and had a very large number of illegitimate children during his career. He became a syphilitic.

Additionally, he was a: murderer, briber, simoniac, debauched, nepotist, corrupt, worldly, wealthy, and slaver.

The words of historian John Lothrop Motley could well apply to Alexander VI:

if there are vices – as possibly there are – from which he was exempt, it is because it is not permitted by human nature to attain perfection even in evil.

Selective Theology

The appellation 'Holy Father', referred to above, is typical of endemic Catholic applied selective/deselective theology – which is evident throughout these volumes: 'We use it when it suits us, we don't when it does not.'

The most blatant example of such selectivity is that of the myriad displays of images of the suffering Christ, the benign Madonna, and the multitude of saints with glowing aureoles. These are all contrary to God's second commandment:

Thou shalt not make to thyself a graven thing, nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, nor of those things that are in the waters under the earth. *Exodus 20:4*²

Nonetheless, *Catholic Encyclopedia* adds to this:

All such images, or likenesses, are forbidden by this commandment, as are made to be adored and served; according to that which immediately follows, thou shalt not adore them, nor serve them. That is, all such as are designed for idols or

¹ McBrien, Richard P. *Lives of the Popes: The Pontiffs from St Peter to John Paul II*. p437

² Source: Catholic Douay-Rheims Bible. Evidence suggests that the Catholic emblems of Jesus on the Cross are those of an image-god who is worshipped with divine honour.

*image-gods, or are worshipped with divine honour.*¹ But otherwise images, pictures, or representations, even in the house of God,² and in the very sanctuary so far from being forbidden, are expressly authorized by the word of God. See *Exodus* 25:15, and etc.; *Exodus* 38:7; *Numbers* 21:8-9; *1 Chronicles* 28:18-19; *2 Chronicles* 3:10.

The horrendous Catholic witch-hunts of the Middle Ages were sanctioned by the Church through its extension of the exhortation of *Exodus* 22:18: 'Wizards thou shalt not suffer to live.'^{3,4}

However, *Catholic Encyclopedia* ('Witchcraft') acknowledges:

The question of the reality of witchcraft is one upon which it is not easy to pass a confident judgment. In the face of Holy Scripture and the teaching of the Fathers and theologians the *abstract* possibility of a pact with the Devil and of a diabolical interference in human affairs can hardly be denied,⁵ but no one can read the literature of the subject without realizing the awful cruelties to which this belief and without being convinced that in 99 cases out of 100 *the allegations rest upon nothing better than pure delusion.*⁶



New Catholic Encyclopedia admits:

The witch trial was clearly a typical legal procedure in which torture was employed to prevail over the demons or ghosts who had taken possession of the accused.⁷ The prosecution or persecution of witches cannot be evaluated correctly on the basis of dramatic and tendentious literature on the theme. The phenomenon must be judged *exclusively* from the perspective of *men*⁸ *afflicted with superstition* and in the light of its concrete historical environment.⁹

¹ Emphasis added.

² The Jewish house of God.

³ Douay-Rheims Bible

⁴ Image: Portion of the title page from *Witches Apprehended, Examined and Executed, from notable villanies by them committed both by Land and Water*. Printed at London ..., 1613.

⁵ This is no proof at all.

⁶ Emphases added.

⁷ Alleged possession.

⁸ Catholic men, part of the Church.

⁹ Emphases added.

Dogmatic Theology

Dogmatic theology is that aspect of theology dealing with the theoretical *alleged truths* of faith¹ concerning God and God's works, especially the official theology recognised by an organised Church body.

Wikipedia states that:

At times, apologetics or fundamental theology is called 'general dogmatic theology', dogmatic theology proper being distinguished from it as 'special dogmatic theology'. In present-day use, however, apologetics is no longer treated as part of dogmatic theology but has attained the rank of an independent science,² being generally regarded as the introduction to and foundation of dogmatic theology.

The term 'dogmatic theology' became more widely used following the Reformation, and was used to designate the articles of faith that the Church had officially devised. Example of dogmatic theology are the doctrinal statements or dogmas that were formulated by the early church councils that sought to resolve theological problems and to take a stance against teaching deemed heretical. Such creeds and dogmas were considered to be authoritative and binding on all adherents of the Catholic faith because the Church officially affirmed them. 'One of the purposes of dogmatic theology is to formulate and communicate doctrine that is considered essential to Christianity³ and which if denied would constitute heresy.'⁴

Dogmatic theology may be defined as the scientific⁵ exposition of the entire theoretical doctrine concerning God and God's external activity, based on the dogmas⁶ of the Church.⁷

Dogmatic theology emphasizes the importance of propositional truth⁸ over experiential, sensory perceptions.⁹

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (the renamed Holy Inquisition) is charged with ensuring fidelity of Catholic teaching regarding theology and doctrine among all members of the Church – especially in disputes or unsolved issues involving theology and the faith, and in dealing with individuals (especially clergy, religious, and catechists). In 1989, the Congregation's International Theological Commission issued a 13,400 words document on doctrinal theology entitled *The Interpretation of Dogma*.

¹ Many instances of the *untruth* of Catholic articles of faith are revealed in these volumes.

² There is nothing scientific, for example, in the apologetic diatribe of John Paul II with respect to the treatment of Galileo. It is analysed in a later volume of this series.

³ Raising the debatable issue of what constitutes 'Christianity', and in whose views. Particularly so, since Roman Catholicism has been classed as a pseudo Christianity.

⁴ *Wikipedia* 'Dogmatic Theology'

⁵ Barth, Karl. *Dogmatics in Outline*

⁶ A dogma is by definition a religious doctrine that is proclaimed as true *without* proof.

⁷ *Wikipedia* 'Dogmatic Theology'

⁸ 'Propositional truth' – a contradiction in terms. See, for example, the statements of Maimonides below.

⁹ *Wikipedia* 'Dogmatic Theology'.

This was issued during Benedict XVI's tenure as Prefect of the Congregation and President of the Commission. It is examined in a later volume of this series dealing with Catholic apologetics and casuistry.

The Characters

In fictional works, it is often stated that the characters depicted are purely imaginary and bear no resemblance to any person living or dead. In these volumes, the converse is assumed; that is, that all the persons depicted here have been, or are, living persons.

This particularly applies to 'Our Lady of Victories', 'La Conquistadora', the 'Great General', and other such militant manifestations of the 'Virgin of Peace', Mary Immaculate, mother of Jesus and his siblings.¹

The militant Mary has appeared in many venues and at diverse times. For example:

The knight 'missed the tournament, but Our Lady attended in his place and won the prize on his behalf.'

The Lady of Victories, 'armed with all sorts of weapons against heretics'.

The French warlord Simon de Montfort built the first shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Victory in thanks for the bloody Catholic victory over the Christian Albigenses at the Battle of Muret on 12 September 1213, where the murders and other evils of the Albigensian Crusade were greatly assisted by 'the power and goodness of the august Virgin'.

'Under the favour of the powerful Virgin, the glorious vanquisher of all heresies, the forces of the wicked were destroyed and dispersed ...'

The Virgin Mary was instrumental in establishing the First Shepherds' Crusade in 1251.

The Virgin 'is the strong wall of defence against the attack of the enemy ... she is a fighter.'

The Virgin Mary conveniently turned up in 1531 to help the murdering conquistadores. 'She appeared to Juan Diego when it was apparent that the Church was making very little headway with the natives of the New World.'

The Holy League credited the victory, in the 1571 Battle of Lepanto, to the belligerent Mary, whose intercession with God they had implored for success by using the Rosary.

Miraculously, also, Mary appeared in 1580 above the city walls of the City of Hal, 'catching cannonballs in her lap.'

During the prelude to the Vietnam War, Our Lady of Fátima was used extensively for propaganda purposes. As the Virgin of Peace she undoubtedly aided the onset of the War.

¹ *Matthew 13:55, Mark 6:3*

Why I Commenced Researching this Subject

Behold, I have given before thee a door opened, which no man can shut. Revelation 3:8¹

The events described here occurred well before the relatively recent world-wide revelations of child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church. Because of the extensive publicity of these global events it seems unnecessary to examine them in these volumes – the subject is now well known.

Nonetheless, I have deemed this lengthy introduction about specific child abuse cases as an essential background to my reasons for undertaking the extended presentation of the evil side of the Catholic Church in this series of volumes.

The trigger for the decision to research this sinister side was my reading a trio of courageous publications^{2,3,4} describing the extensive physical, sexual and psychological abuses inflicted on deprived, defenceless children in a Catholic institution in my home state of Western Australia, and the *total* lack of remorse by *any* ecclesiastics within that Church.

Abominations at Boy's Town, Bindoon

The perpetrators described in the above-mentioned books were the barbarous psychopathic members of the Christian Brothers Order in whose care the children had been placed. No civilised person reading the accounts of their horrific treatments could fail to feel compassion for these guiltless, traumatised fellow humans.

The children were part of a migration scheme sponsored by the British and Australian governments, whereby little boys from the British Isles, some only four or five years old,⁵ were sent to the Catholic “Christian Brothers Farm and Trade School”, otherwise known as “Boys’ Town”, at Bindoon in Western Australia. This influx of captive labour continued from the late 1930s until the 1960s.

In 1938, on the occasion of the arrival of a boatload of the English children, the then Catholic Archbishop of Perth, Western Australia, gave an address in which he thanked the various governments that had made the immigration scheme possible, and which had far-reaching consequences for the progress of Australia. The Catholic newspaper *The Record* ⁶ quoted his saying that at a time when empty cradles were contributing woefully to empty spaces, it was necessary to look for external sources of supply. And if Australia did not supply from its own stock, it was leaving itself all the more exposed to the menace of the teeming millions of neighbouring Asian races.⁷

¹ Douay-Rheims Bible

² Welsh, L.P. *The Bindoon File*

³ Welsh, L.P. *Geordie: Orphan of the Empire*

⁴ Blyth, Bruce. *In the Shadow of the Cross*

⁵ Humphreys, Margaret. *Empty Cradles*. p107

⁶ Official organ of the Archdiocese of Perth – edited by Monsignor J.T. McMahon.

⁷ Humphreys, Margaret. *Empty Cradles*. p278

This migration scheme was obviously an unashamed piece of hard-headed social and religious engineering set up to fill rural Australia with young, white, British stock.

The Church's later claim that these children were imposed upon it by governments was a fabrication. It was made evident that the Church actively sought child migrants. For example, in 1933 Archbishop Clune of Perth wrote to Cardinal Bourne of Westminster, suggesting the possibility of Catholic children being sent from England to be trained as farmers. Children, the archbishop said, were cheaper to transport and transplant.¹

Setting the tone for their subsequent treatment at Boys' Town, one of the boys recalled that before leaving Southampton, they were each given a set of new clothes. But when they arrived at Bindoon these clothes were taken from them. They were left without underwear. It was degrading.²

There, at Boys' Town, the children were required to work incredibly long hours, without wages of any kind, under the harshest conditions. They were deprived of the education to which they were legally entitled, and were subjected to brutal physical, verbal, psychological and sexual abuse.

Effectively they were slaves.

Brother McGee, the Principal Brother, welcomed new arrivals by yelling out 'Stop your crying and whining, or I'll give you a flogging. All of you.' 'This,' commented Lionel Welsh, 'was my welcoming address to the Hell I was to remain in for the next four and a half years.'³

The Principal of Boys' Town was Christian Brother Paul Francis Keaney. He was born in Ireland in 1888, and became a policeman there. In 1911 he migrated to Queensland and joined the police force. He was a massive figure at 188 cm (6 feet 2 inches) tall and weighing 115 kg (252 lb). He has been described as a 'big stout man with the neck of a bull',⁴ and 'He had a reputation for toughness and was a man to be feared.'⁵

He entered the Christian Brothers in 1916 and joined the staff of Clontarf in 1919. He was appointed director of Clontarf, Western Australia, in 1926. The 'house system', where the children lived in small family units, was considered too costly by the Christian Brothers, so St Mary's, Tardun, and later St Joseph's, Bindoon, were designed as large-scale institutions housing numerous children in dormitory accommodation.⁶

Later, Keaney moved to Bindoon. There, with their bare hands, the bond-children constructed the educational and other buildings at Boys' Town, as it became known. They were beaten, brutalised, castigated, enveloped in corrosive cement dust, and their

¹ Humpheys, Margaret. *Empty Cradles*. p279

² Ibid. p109

³ Welsh, Lionel. *Geordie: An Incredible Story of the Human Spirit*. p24

⁴ <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/keaney-paul-francis-6902> (2020)

⁵ Welsh, Lionel. *Geordie: An Incredible Story of the Human Spirit*. p25

⁶ Source: Register of Heritage Places - Assessment Documentation – Heritage Council of Western Australia

inadequate food was covered in brick dust. They were always hungry.¹ They were made to sleep on urine soaked mattresses. Furthermore, the boys were beaten with belts with heavy buckles. The beatings were conducted in front of other boys. The boys' trousers were pulled down, in front of these other boys, before they received their beatings.²

Subsequently, the children had to build the Stations of the Cross out of stone. One victim stated that these Stations symbolise what all the children had lost. The question continues to remain: 'who was crucified?'^{3,4}

The brutality was not confined to Boys' Town – similar administrations of cruelty occurred in other Western Australian orphanages (Clontarf,⁵ Castledare, and Tardun) run by the Catholic Church.⁶ Cruelty alone – no compassion. One of the innocents at Clontarf realised one day that he was no longer a human being. He had become a nonentity; his inner being had died.⁷ Another stated that it had been like a concentration camp; with unlimited flogging.⁸

Dr Barry Coldrey wrote a report entitled *Reaping the Whirlwind: A Secret Report for the Executive of the Christian Brother – Sexual Abuse from 1930-1994*. Here is an account from it of one young boy, a survivor of the notorious Bindoon orphanage:

I settled into Boys town, Bindoon, and worked very hard under Brother Keaney but was singled out by several Brothers for special attention and often found myself in very unsavory situations where I was given jobs away from the other boys and was subjected to a Brother taking all his clothes off and all my clothes off and he (Angus) tried to penetrate me for a long time until the lunch bell rang. I was told not to say anything and it won't happen again. The Brother would give me a job, and this other one would turn up. He told me I was doing something wrong, took my pants down and belted me with the strap' and told me I would get the same till I learned to do exactly what he wanted me to do. The climax came on one day when all the boys were to go to the Bindoon Show. This Brother was going with them, so I made an excuse to stay behind, so one Brother told me to feed hay to the cattle, and clean up the dairy. I nearly died when the Brother turned up behind me with no clothes on ... he ordered me to remove my shorts ... I was

¹ Confirming the chronic inadequate diet provided by the Brothers, Ivor Kight recorded: 'One of my most vivid memories of Tardun of that period is that I was always hungry.' Knight, Ivor. *Out of Darkness: Growing up with the Christian Brothers*. p40

² Humphreys, Margaret. *Oranges & Sunshine*. Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Keaney (2020)

³ Humphreys, Margaret. *Empty Cradles*. p107

⁴ A relatively recent document, *Welcome to the magnificent heritage buildings and the surrounding farmland which form Catholic Agricultural College Bindoon*, published by 'Catholic Agricultural College', Bindoon (as Boys' Town was later renamed) comments that Brother Keaney 'has become a figure of controversy in more recent times. *There have been allegations of brutality* in his treatment of the boys at Bindoon, and criticism of his preoccupation with developing the buildings.' Emphasis added.

⁵ See below.

⁶ Humphreys, Margaret. *Empty Cradles*. p115

⁷ Ibid. p247

⁸ Ibid. p296

scared and he grabbed me and threw me onto bales of hay and raped me. I was crying as he kept trying to push his penis into me ...¹

The Church's version of events was totally different. The Rt Rev Monsignor J T McMahon, in his book *College, Campus, Cloister*, wrote:

Brother Keaney was above all a builder of character ...; In his eyes there were no bad boys ...; Brother Keaney's life was dominated by an unsleeping purpose – to surround his boys with emblems of their faith so that they would love and live their faith.^{2,3} ... He will be judged by his fruits ... Surely his life devoted to boys will merit for him the 'Well done, good and faithful servant' of a generous Lord.⁴

The Bindoon File written by inmate Lionel Welsh⁵ tells a different story. The newly-arrived children were told by Keaney:

You are the descendants of Cromwell! Your mothers were whores, your fathers drunks. You come from the scum of the earth, but out of the goodness of our hearts, we have brought you to this country and the work you do here is helping to pay the debt you owe.

When you pray, pray for the blackened souls of your mothers and fathers, and in the confessional, tell the good priest you are illegitimate and ask his blessed forgiveness.

All of you will finish up behind bars, or go back to the gutter where you came from.⁶

Lionel Welsh, recorded that not once did he hear a word of kindness or encouragement from the 'Father of the orphan', nor did he ever see a pat on the head with a 'Well done, lad.' He also recorded that one of the Brothers' favourite pastimes was sniffing the crutch of a boy's shorts. On one occasion, a boy summoned up enough courage to report a particularly repulsive incident to Keaney, who immediately accused him of lying:

May god damn you to hellfire and may your soul rot in hell! Get out of here, you little black shit!⁷

After administering a public flogging, Keaney would often chide his victim with one of his favourite sayings: "there's a few brains on the bottom floor, sonny, but the top floor is full of shit."⁸

¹ Coldrey, Barry M. Submission. *Senate Inquiry into Child Migration*.

² McMahon, J T. *College, Campus, Cloister*. pp256-57. Emphasis added.

³ See also: Welsh, L P. *The Bindoon File*

⁴ McMahon, J T. *College, Campus, Cloister*. p258. Emphasis added.

⁵ Lionel Peter Welsh, much of whose life was effectively destroyed by the Christian Brothers at Bindoon, passed away on 8 December 2006.

⁶ Welsh, L P. *The Bindoon File*. pp46-48

⁷ Ibid. p47

⁸ Ibid. p46

One of the boys from Clontarf described Keaney as ‘an evil sadist and a deviant conman’.¹

The true picture of Keaney surfaced in the public arena a little later. Australian Senator Andrew Murray, speaking in the federal parliament recorded:

In the late 1940s, Keaney set about erecting his own monument by embarking on the near impossible task of completing five large granite buildings at Bindoon using child labour. His unpaid, hungry, fearful labour force was mostly child migrant boys who were also expected to clear, fence and establish vineyards and orchards on 17,000 acres [6880 hectares] of undeveloped Western Australian farmland. To achieve his vision, he inflicted a manic and brutal regime of slave labour on the boys under his care. They were relentlessly driven from dawn to dusk in a dangerous work environment where the risk of accident was a reality. With their bare hands they cleared the land, laid the foundations and erected the most magnificent structures for Keaney and the Christian Brothers Order.

Education was largely denied these boys, as was an adequate diet and protective clothing. *Christian love and care was distinguished not by its presence but by its absence.*²

Senator Murray also recorded that ‘He [Keaney] was a sadist who indulged in criminal assault and who knowingly protected rings of predatory Brothers engaged in systemic long-term sexual assault on defenceless children.’³

By contrast, Keaney himself publicly stated that:

The main function of this institution is to train boys in the principles of religion *and morality* with a view to making them good and useful citizens.⁴

However, F E Meacham, the Director of the state’s Child Welfare Department had interviewed the boys and written to the local Archbishop, Redmond Prendiville. He then recorded:

I took a very serious view of the matter and felt that Br Keaney was unfitted to continue as Manager and that I was giving consideration to taking proceedings against him for assaulting the boys.

Prendiville suggested that Child Welfare confront Brother Keaney, but was loath to remove Keaney from his management ... or request the Brothers’ executive in Sydney to do so.

Meacham himself interviewed Keaney, and as a consequence he wrote:

The issue at the moment is the over-punishment of boys ... I feel that brother Keaney is unfitted to continue as manager of the institution. I have been obliged to

¹ N K C. *My Father: From Malta to Clontarf*. p29

² http://www.democrats.org.au/speeches/index.htm?speech_id=1509&display=1 (2008). Emphasis added.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Coldrey, Barry M. *The Scheme*. pp276-80. Emphasis added.

form the opinion that brother Keaney's one object in life is to build vast buildings and to work the Boys as hard as he can to get the work done expeditiously and cheaply, and from my interview with the archbishop¹ he is loath to remove Keaney.²

The award winning television documentary series *The Leaving of Liverpool*³ was produced by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation in 1992. It portrayed the horrors of the child migration scheme of the 1950s.

At this time a Perth social psychologist was writing a doctoral thesis on the treatment of child migrants in Western Australia. She interviewed 186 former child migrants from Bindoon, Clontarf, Tardun and Castledare, and claimed to have evidence that in a given year at Clontarf Boys' Home as many as 50 of the boys were being sexually abused. Sixteen Christian Brothers were alleged to have been involved.⁴

In 1994, The Parliament of Western Australia was presented a petition with 30,000 signatures demanding an inquiry into the sexual and physical assaults that took place in Bindoon. Other institutions run by the Christian Brothers in Castledare, Clontarf and Tardun were also named.⁵

For years, the Church concealed the squalid truth about Boys' Town and other orphanages. Eventually, however, the sufferings of these children and the terrible story of Bindoon became the subject of greater media interest.⁶

In March 2001, Australia's *Sydney Morning Herald* newspaper described the principal of Boys' Town, the Rev. Brother Paul Francis Keaney, as a 'Hitler', who was accustomed to beat, punch and denigrate the children in his care.⁷

Keaney's record as a disciplinarian came under growing scrutiny after former students recalled his role as that of a brutal disciplinarian with an ungovernable temper, who neglected their education, exploited their labour, and turned a blind eye to sexual misconduct by staff members.⁸

One of Keaney's victims described him as 'the cruellest mongrel that God had ever put on this planet'.⁹ Keaney was also reported as the man who beat the child John Hennessy to a pulp.¹⁰

In the 2001 Australian Senate Community Affairs and References Committee Report *Lost Innocents: Righting the Record - Report on Child Migration*, evidence

¹ A Church website (<http://www.prendiville.wa.edu.au/About-Us/The-College-Name>) records that Archbishop Redmond Prendiville was a great church leader who 'is fondly remembered for *his pastoral concern for others*'. Emphasis added.

² Coldrey, Barry M. *The Scheme*. p352

³ <http://www.abc.net.au/programsales/s1123499.htm> (2006)

⁴ Humphreys, Margaret. *Empty Cradles*. p304

⁵ Wikipedia 'Bindoon, Western Australia' (2020)

⁶ See, for example: Bean, P and J Melville. *The Lost Children of the Empire*. A film was subsequently made of these events.

⁷ <http://www.antichrist.com.au/2001/0103/0103migrantabuse.html> (2001)

⁸ Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Keaney (2020)

⁹ Humphreys, Margaret. *Empty Cradles*. p115

¹⁰ <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/1999/09/07/6011/main61454.shtml> (2008)

was given that revealed the depraved and violent nature of Brother Keaney and his role in the systematic abuse of children under his care. In submissions to the Committee, individuals who had been abused by Keaney described his brutality. For example:

One boy reported that he lost his teeth at Bindoon from repeatedly being kicked in the face by Keaney.

Another victim recorded that Keaney was a very sadistic, perverted and deviant paedophile who abused many of the boys in his care.¹

Yet another reported that Bindoon was nothing more than a paedophile ring. Most of the Brothers were into raping and molesting the boys.

All the boys were flogged by Keaney, and he inflicted extreme atrocious verbal abuse and very personal insults on them.²

Paul Francis Keaney, the terrorist of Bindoon, died, aged 65, on 26 February 1954. He was sanctimoniously described by the Church as ‘one of Australia’s best-known educationalists in child welfare work’, and as having given ‘a life of devotion to the underprivileged boys’.³

Lionel Welsh asked ‘There were many other instances of physical abuse from the Brothers at various times ... How could grown men, who embraced the religious life, act in such a way towards young children?’⁴

The list of human casualties that can be debited against the horrors of Keaney’s brutality includes countless: broken homes, alcoholism, drug addiction, imprisonment, deportation, and suicides.⁵

Two Summations by Victims

Ivor Knight, who grew up under their ‘care’, referred to:

The complexities, inconsistencies, contradictions, and hypocrisies of the Christian Brother mentality in relation to morality.⁶

In the words of Bindoon inmate Lionel Welsh:

One must hand it to these people. They were well trained in driving people to the limit of endurance, and, at the same time, humiliating them and inducing in them the feeling that they should be grateful for what was being done to them.⁷

True Catholic charity exemplified.

Malevolent Deception at Boys’ Town

Not only did the Church tell the children that they were the scum of the earth and

¹ Wikipedia ‘Paul Keaney (2020)

² http://www.democrats.org.au/speeches/index.htm?speech_id=1509&display=1 (2008)

³ Humpheys, Margaret. *Empty Cradles*. p288

⁴ Welsh, L P. *Geordie: An Incredible Story of the Human Spirit*. p71

⁵ Ibid. *The Bindoon File*. p48

⁶ Knight, Ivor. *Out of Darkness: Growing up with the Christian Brothers*. p57

⁷ Ibid. *Geordie: An Incredible Story of the Human Spirit*. p60

the descendants of whores, but some were also told that their parents were dead, when in fact they were not. In *The Bindoon File*, Lionel Welsh describes how he was conscripted from the British Isles, with his consent form for transportation being signed by a nun at the orphanage in England where he was incarcerated for ten years. His family, only 100 kilometres (60 miles) away, was never notified that he was to be or had been sent to Australia. Until he was fifteen, and while he was an unpaid slave at Bindoon, he always believed that he was illegitimate and had been left by an uncaring person on the steps of the convent. That is what the nuns had told him.

However, one day at Bindoon, Lionel discovered the truth in a ledger entitled 'Registrations'. It was in Keaney's office, and no one being there, Lionel opened it. Inside were the names and family histories of all his slave comrades. He searched for his name and there it was: his father and mother and his place and date of birth. 'Shocked and hurt beyond words, bitter tears ran down my face.'

Years later, Lionel learned that, after a struggle with tuberculosis, his mother had died in 1950 while he was a prisoner at Bindoon and his sister Maureen was incarcerated in the notorious Catholic Goodwood Orphanage in South Australia.¹ Both had been sent to Australia without the consent or knowledge of any of their family.

Even more despicable was the fact that following the children's leaving England in 1947, and for three years up to their Mother's death, the orphanage in England still accepted what little money the sick and broken woman could afford for their upkeep – notwithstanding that they were living on the other side of the globe and being supported by the British and Australian Governments.² Avarice has been, and remains, one of the long standing characteristics of the Catholic Church.

Misleading Mendacious Evasions

Publication of such atrocities prompted deliberately misleading responses from the Church. For example, Msgr Michael Connelly, the Secretary of the Catholic Welfare Council, wrote in *The Universe* (UK: 14 May 1989):

Sadly because of the way children were received into care in those days there were *often only scanty records of their families and backgrounds*. In many cases the children had been virtually abandoned.

It was also stated in the book.³ that many children had been migrated without the consent of their parents. *Religious Orders and Catholic agencies in this country were meticulous in obtaining parents' consent* when their whereabouts were known and in other cases, the Australian authorities in London had to approve the possibility of the children migrating.

There are of course, difficulties in corroborating these allegations after such a long period of time ...

¹ Numerous cases of abuse at this orphanage are available on the internet. For example: Moles, Robert Nelson. <http://netk.net.au/AbuseCases/GoodwoodBrenda.asp> (2020)

² Welsh, L P. *The Bindoon File*. pp95, 99

³ Bean, P and J Melville. *The Lost Children of the Empire*

One charge being made is that the children were deceived about their family origins and background. *This has to be considered in the light of experience in those days.*¹

Seeking Legal Redress

When the Boys' Town innocents eventually embarked on a valiant struggle to seek acknowledgement of, and redress for their horrendous treatment, the Christian Brothers Order employed some of Australia's *most expensive* and eminent legal counsel, and, exploiting every legal technicality, fought a long and bitter battle to keep the case out of the courts – *a battle which the children finally lost.*

This is yet another example of the self-serving attitude of the Church of Rome 'in which accountability is a foreign concept.'²

Brenda's Story – Abuse at Goodwood Orphanage, Adelaide, 1950s

Pursuing the record of barbarity in Catholic orphanages in Australia, and as a supplement to the horrors of Bindoon, the following is a brief extract from a distressing memory of an innocent British girl who was shipped to the Goodwood Orphanage in South Australia, arriving 19 January 1949:

Within a month of arriving, a number of older English girls were summoned to the dormitory and thrashed with a strap 'just to teach us a lesson'. I was an extroverted person when I arrived but it didn't take long for me to realise that being sociable and fun-loving was reason enough to be punished.

One day, on the pretence of being interviewed, while one of the nuns was talking to me another nun sneaked up from behind and cut off my plaits. I was absolutely devastated as my hair was my pride and joy. They had taken away the only thing I cherished. Even my faith in God was diminishing. That started me on my slide to depression.

But worse was to come. The following incident is the absolute truth and has haunted me throughout my life. I remember it as clearly today as the day it happened because of the feeling of despair and pain that has affected my life to this day ...

It was two hours to bedtime and I went about my chores with a feeling of uneasiness as I had heard about previous beatings. My bed was in the centre of a dormitory with about 40 to 50 beds for girls aged from 10 to 16 yrs. Everyone was unusually quiet which made me feel even worse, for they knew I would be beaten that night.

It wasn't long before I heard her footsteps, the door opening then she was at my bedside.

It was a hot night and I cowered beneath the single sheet and when I turned to look, I saw her red, bulging face and the huge, thick strap in her hand. She bellowed

¹ Welsh, L.P. *The Bindoon File*. p98. Emphases added.

² Rigert, Joe. *An Irish Tragedy: How Sex Abuse by Irish Priests helped Cripple the Catholic Church*. p18

‘Get out of bed’, to which I slid further under the sheet. The next thing I felt the strap come down across my body, it was the most painful thing I had ever experienced. She continued flogging me, ranting and raving, until I could take no more. I jumped out the other side of the bed and ran around the dormitory, trying to get away. I could hear some of the girls whimpering under their sheets, too scared to look. One of the nuns who was on duty at the time caught me and dragged me back to my bed where the Rev Mother proceeded to strip me, tearing and ripping at my nightie exposing my naked body. It was then that she became infuriated. She threw me down on the bed and ‘viciously flogged me until she had crushed and shamed me. She looked like a woman gone insane, showing no mercy at all’.

The pain throughout my body was unbearable, my mind was in turmoil and I had been humiliated beyond imagination. I was going through puberty and my body had been maturing for quite some time. To be stripped for all to see was horrendous.

I lay there, nauseated and feeling utterly crushed. Not able to move. I tried to think of my home in England – but the physical and psychological pain was too great. Then I heard her leave without saying another word.¹

Castledare Orphanage

Ivor Knight recalls the night, when as a young boy, he was abused by a Christian Brother at Castledare:

During the night I awoke and was immediately conscious that someone was in bed with me ...

Then I became aware that I had no pyjamas on, and that whoever was in the bed with me had none on either. Bare hairy skin rasped against mine. A hand was feeling my buttocks and another holding my penis ... Something long and hard, but at the same time sort of muscly ... was pressing between the cheeks of my buttocks and between my legs. It was hurting for it seemed to be trying to enter my backside. I began to cry and tried to get out of the bed. A hand on my shoulder roughly pulled me back ...

Suddenly I was all wet around the buttocks and between the legs ...

On many other occasions after that – probably on average every three weeks or so – a brother (I think the same one) took me to his room ...²

The Need to Remember

Back to Bindoon. Following the media publicity about Boys’ Town, an Australian Catholic archbishop, when interviewed on this subject, exhorted the public to ‘forgive and forget’ these unloving atrocities.³

¹ Moles, Robert Nelson. <http://netk.net.au/AbuseCases/GoodwoodBrenda.asp> (2020)

² Knight, Ivor A. *Out of Darkness: Growing up with the Christian Brothers*. pp22-23

³ A similar suggestion was made in 1960 by Cardinal Caggiano (who assisted Nazi war criminals in escaping to Argentina). He spoke out against the capture by Israel of Adolf Eichmann, ‘the architect of the Nazi Holocaust’. ‘Our obligation as Christians,’ said Caggiano, ‘is to forgive him for what he’s done.’ Source: Uki Gofni. *The Real*

How easy, for one whose life had not been ruined by the actions of the Church, to present such a placatory suggestion.

Why should one forgive the unforgiving Church? Should we forgive and forget the religious assassinations of ‘the other’, such as, the many Inquisitions, the Church’s inhuman witch-hunts, the genocide of the infamous Albigensian Crusade, the much celebrated St Bartholomew’s Day massacres, the slave galleys of the popes, or the genocide of Christian Orthodox Serbs during World War II by the Church-supported terrorist organisation Ustaša?

Should we not also be aware of the research of the author Erna Paris, who showed that the ‘Inquisition mentality’ grows when people fail to express opposition to it, and that it will continue to reappear and damage humanity so long as society allows itself to ignore the debasement of ‘the Other’?¹

Karen Armstrong, in her *A Short History of Myth*, has pointed out that destructive mythologies have attempted to exalt ‘the self’ by demonising ‘the other’.² In his work *Moral Purity and Persecution in History*, Barrington Moore, Jr found that the reason why humans kill and torture each other is because they see ‘them’ (‘the Other’) as polluting, due to their impure religious, political or economic ideas.³ Daniel C Napolitano of Seton Hill University,⁴ a Catholic, and a Holocaust Memorial Museum official, sensitively explained in his lectures on the Holocaust ‘the necessity of protecting the welfare of ‘the other’.⁵

This practice of the dehumanisation of ‘the other’ is one of the major lessons of history; by forgetting, whether it be genocide or child abuse, we ignore this finding at our peril.

Denial of Justice

Later, following increasing public censure, the Christian Brothers Order issued an unreserved apology for its part, but continued to pass blame on governments and government organisations.

The Western Australian *Sunday Times* summed up the general sentiment by stating, firstly, that the apology was only an initial step, which was reluctantly hauled from the Order while it continued to assert that many of the claims were exaggerated; and secondly, that the Order was resisting paying compensation to those whose lives it had ruined.⁶

By 2020, as a cover up to its sordid past, Bindoon had been renamed Edmund Rice College:

ODESSA: How Perón Brought the Nazi War Criminals to Argentina. p93

¹ Paris, Erna. *The End of Days: A Story of Tolerance, Tyranny and the Expulsion of the Jews from Spain*

² Armstrong, Karen. *A Short history of Myth.* p136

³ Moore, Barrington Jr. *Moral Purity and Persecution in History.* dust cover

⁴ Seton Hill University is a small Catholic liberal arts university in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

⁵ <http://blogs.setonhill.edu/ncche/015099.php> (2008)

⁶ Humphreys, Margaret. *Empty Cradles.* p342

The College is a Catholic school *built on a tradition* inspired by their founder Blessed Edmund Rice.¹

Abominations at Clontarf Boys' Town

Clontarf was the name of a former orphanage for boys operated by the Christian Brothers organisation in a Perth suburb in Western Australia.

A vivid account of the brutality, depravity and hypocrisy of the Brothers who ran this institution is given by N. K. C. in her book *My Father: From Malta to Clontarf*.²

Brother Paul Francis Keaney was also active in these events.

Children from Malta were also promised a better life and an education where they would learn skills and a trade.

In Malta, the parents were told that the children would be billeted out in homes with Australian families.³ The reality was far different.

On arrival, all the boys' own clothes were taken from them, and they were issued with khaki shorts, and like the children in Boy's Town, were never given any underwear. Their own shoes were also taken from them, and they had bare feet every day of the year.

Life at Clontarf 'was one of misery and hardship.'⁴ The days comprised extended hours of heavy manual work, little food or drink, and no education. Again, the children were effectively slaves.

The Maltese boy, the subject of N. K. C's book, was forced to learn to speak English because the Brothers beat him if he spoke Maltese – the only language he knew.

As at Bindoon, the children were always hungry, and had to steal food to stay alive. By contrast, the Brothers ate in gourmet style with ample food and wine. What was left over from their table was sent to the pigs on the farm – not to feed the starving children. The boys' meals were always the same, tapioca gruel for breakfast, bread and jam for lunch, and tripe for dinner.

Like Bindoon Boys' Town, the buildings at Clontarf Boys' Town were mainly constructed by the slave children. The author records that her father's feet were often burned by the lime in making the concrete, and if he complained of the pain he was beaten.

The Brothers were incredibly cruel. Beating was part of the daily routine. One boy, for example, who was extremely thin from being starved, was on a scaffold and received a punch in the abdomen that caused him to fall and break his back. Another, who had lost both legs in an accident, was beaten so severely that his screams could be heard all over the grounds.⁵

¹ <https://erc.wa.edu.wa/> (2020). Edmund Rice was the founder of the notorious Christian Brothers. Emphasis added. No mention of the slave children who built the buildings.

² N. K. C. *My Father: From Malta to Clontarf*

³ Ibid. p55

⁴ Ibid. p25

⁵ Ibid. p31

Additionally, ‘Clontarf was nothing more than a pedophile ring.’ The Brothers molested and raped most of the children. Keaney was by far the worst offender.¹ By way of example of the Brothers’ sexual perversions, one boy recalled that he had to perform oral sex on them. They would even urinate in his mouth and on his face – and laugh. They also raped him. He was even dragged from his bed at night for the Brothers’ pleasure. The memory of these events never left him; and he drank himself to death at the age of 49.²

As at Bindoon, so at Clontarf. Keaney verbally abused the children: ‘Your mother didn’t want you’; ‘she was a slut’; ‘the devil’s child’.³

A selection of descriptions by some of the victims of their treatments by the Brothers include:

one boy lost all his teeth after being kicked in the face;

another was beaten by a leather strap with embedded metal;

a boy who was particularly affectionate with a horse was made to kill and skin the very same animal;

another had his arm broken for stealing a drink of milk, because he was so hungry.⁴

N. K. C. summed up her father’s experience at Clontarf as an ‘unimaginable childhood.’⁵

Ivor Knight recalls that:

Religious examinations were held each six months, in conjunction with our normal school subject exams, and mistakes were treated in similar fashion as with other subjects. A common joke ... was that we had been taught religion ‘through the arse’. It was belted in like everything else.⁶

He also reveals that Brother Thyer sexually molested him to the point of ejaculation. When Ivor went to confession to explain to the priest what had happened, ‘I found that he was not at all interested in who I had been with when these things happened. He did confirm, however, that a stiff penis (erection, I now learned) relieved by one’s own hand (masturbation: a dreadful sin) to the point of wetting (ejaculation, he told me) was most fearfully frowned on, and could have most disastrous consequences for my mind, body and, above all, for my soul.’⁷

Later Br Thyer forced Ivor to have mutual oral sex.⁸

Later still, Br Thyer beat him unmercifully on successive days for having run away.

¹ N. K. C. *My Father: From Malta to Clontarf*. p29

² *Ibid.* pp33-35

³ *Ibid.* p30

⁴ *Ibid.* p57

⁵ *Ibid.* p63

⁶ Knight, Ivor A. *Out of Darkness: Growing up with the Christian Brothers*. pp63-64

⁷ Reaffirming the Church’s chronic obsession with sin and soul.

⁸ Knight, Ivor A. *Out of Darkness: Growing up with the Christian Brothers*. pp71-73

Strapping the children was a daily activity by the Brothers. No mercy. Just malevolence.

Br Thyer relished administering this strapping with all the force that he could muster. Hence he was nicknamed ‘Basher’ Thyer.¹

The Principal of Clontarf, Brother Cowley, administered ‘sex education’. One victim described the process: Cowley ‘wanked’ him with one hand, and himself with the other, whilst explaining about sexual reproduction. Ivor Knight detailed his experience:

As ordered, I reported to the office and allowed Crowley to unbutton my shorts. Taking my penis in his hand he questioned me about playing with it ...

As he stroked and tried to raise it, I sat passively, uninvolved. After sometime, gaining no satisfaction from me, he ordered me to dress and pushed me out of the office. So ended the first official lesson of sex education.²

Eventually, after repeated public pressure, the Christian Brothers issued a public apology in July 1993 for their abuse inflicted on the children, but they qualified this by sanctimoniously adding:

The extent of the abuse appears to have been exaggerated.³

In September 1993, the Western Australian police announced that they were investigating complaints of sexual abuse by certain Brothers. Two months later, the Director of Public Prosecutions announced that no prosecutions would be instituted because ‘it is not in the public interest’.⁴

In the end, *not a single Brother was ever punished*. Perpetuating its chronic obsession, the Church had protected its own.

As at 2012, the Clontarf website, *About Our College*, made no reference to its sordid past, merely stating euphemistically that the place became self-sufficient with a productive farm on site on which the boys worked, and that they ‘were also engaged in assisting with much of the building work’.⁵

Carefully avoiding any mention of the barbarous treatment of the boys, *Wikipedia* records in 2020:

Between 1936 and 1942, Brother Keaney served a second period as Superior during which he introduced an apprenticeship scheme that provided the boys with trade skills. Many buildings were constructed during the period using the boys as labourers. It is estimated that 300,000 bricks were laid by the boys for a new chapel which was built and consecrated in 1941 by Archbishop Redmond Prendiville. Other tasks done by the boys included roof tiling and carpentry work.

¹ Knight, Ivor A. *Out of Darkness: Growing up with the Christian Brothers*. p95

² Ibid. pp109-10

³ N. K. C. *My Father: From Malta to Clontarf*. p52

⁴ Ibid. p51

⁵ <http://web.clontarf.wa.edu.au/index.php?page=about-our-college> (2012)

In 1941 the orphanage was renamed Clontarf Boys' Town and around that time started taking orphans from Britain.¹

No Mercy at St Joseph's Orphanage

St Joseph's Orphanage was situated in Subiaco, Western Australia. It was run by the Sisters of Mercy. In his book *The Girl who Slapped God in the Face*,² Kevin M Lehan describes the treatment meted out by these inappropriately named Sisters of Mercy to his mother, then a young girl, during several miserable years from 1909 onwards. Her own mother had been hospitalised, and as she was unable to care for her daughters, they were declared wards of the state and sent to the Orphanage.

There, the daughter was thrashed, caned, and repeatedly bashed about the head. And, in a manner similar to that at Boy's Town, she never received a proper education.

In all the years that they were there, not once did she or her sister see her mother or receive any letters from her. It appears, on comparable evidence, that the nuns had a policy of withholding all mail sent to inmates, and discouraged parental visits.

Her summary of her experiences at St Joseph's was: 'the nuns never displayed any love or kindness to us. They were always cruel, very very cruel!'

Later, she worked in the kitchen and laundry of the Convent at Toodyay, a small town 85 kilometres north-east of the state capital, Perth. Here, 'something terrible' had happened to her during her stay. She would not elaborate. It was apparently infinitely worse than anything that had happened at St Joseph's.

Christian Brothers Agricultural School, Tardun

The Christian Brothers Agricultural School was founded in Tardun in 1928 for child migrants from Britain. It closed in 2009. In a testimony before a British parliamentary committee investigating British child migrants sent to Australia in the late 1990s, one boy spoke of the criminal abuse he received from Catholic priests at Tardun. He testified that several of them competed to see who would be the first to rape him 100 times. They liked his blue eyes, so he repeatedly beat himself in the hope they would change colour. As parliamentarians reflected at the time, the term 'sexual abuse' seemed wholly inadequate given the awfulness of his experience.

Ivor Knight has a chapter in his book headed: 'Tardun:1942-1945: Surviving Catholicism'. He recollects:

Punishments for our various infractions, real or imagined, were inflicted on the spot by some brothers, whilst others preferred to relish the wait by telling the poor miscreant to 'report to my room tonight.'

Brother Dawe [nicknamed Sagger] was one who believed in immediate action ... He had developed a talent for punishing, by hitting the victim across the backs of the legs behind the knee. Because he didn't care what he used as a weapon, the result was often spectacular ... Very seldom did the punishment end after only one

¹ *Wikipedia* 'Clontarf Aboriginal College' (2020)

² A private publication.

hit. I remember once seeing Sagger break a broom handle across the shoulders of a boy ...

Sagger enjoyed his work, using a broom or mop handle, wooden pegs or marking stakes; but his favourite was the flat of an axe handle.¹

Ivor Knight has a further chapter in his book referring to his being back at Tardun during :1942-1945:

At lunch one weekend, the superior, Brother Quirke, announced that there would be a session for all boys in the church that afternoon dealing with sexual education. An Ecumenical Circular ... had been received, stating that all boys of the appropriate age would receive adequate sexual instruction forthwith, to equip the to deal with the issue in later life.

Photographs were handed round. Br Quirke then instructed:

Never sleep on your stomachs, or allow your hands to fondle your private parts. Masturbation is dangerous to health, even if accidentally done. Prolonged masturbatory sessions produce mental and physical illness. Intercourse, which is the sexual act only permitted between married male and female couples, is all right if it is only done for the purpose of procreation, not just for pleasure. For anyone else it is a mortal sin and *you will surely rot in hell if you indulge*.

So it went. Nothing was said about emotions, feelings, and the concept of love between individuals, which may culminate in sex.

The theme of our 'sex education' lesson was simple. 'Control your sinful lust and your thoughts, you dirty little boys. Keep your hands off your body, which is the Temple of Christ, or *you will suffer eternal damnation and all the consequences of hellfire*.'²

In December 2014, the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse* found that:

Christian Brothers leaders knew of allegations of sexual abuse of children at four WA orphanages, including Tardun, and failed to manage the homes to prevent the systemic ill-treatment for decades.

It also found that Keaney not only tolerated sexual abuse, he was a regular perpetrator,³ and that the institution was concerned by the cost of legal proceedings, but 'there was *no sentiment of recognising the suffering of the survivors*.'⁴

The Cover-up Continues

Dr Barry Coldrey, a Catholic, has written about twenty books and a number of

¹ Knight, Ivor A. *Out of Darkness: Growing up with the Christian Brothers*. pp34-35

² Ibid. pp 115-16. Emphases added.

³ Shorthill, F D. Keaney, Paul Francis (1888-1954). <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/keaney-paul-francis-6902> (2012)

⁴ *Wikipedia* 'Tardun, Western Australia' (2020). Emphasis added.

articles;¹ many of them in recent years have been sympathetic towards child abuses. In his book *A Most Unenviable Reputation: The Christian Brothers and School Discipline over Two Centuries*, he quotes:

The firm, sometimes repressive or even brutal discipline which has historically been associated with the Brothers schools in Australia is legendary.²

He estimates that 10 percent of the 4000 members of the international Christian Brothers Order abused young people, more than double the reported rate for other priests in Ireland and America.³

In 2002, the Vatican forced Dr Coldrey to remove from the Internet his book *Religious Life without Integrity: the Sexual Abuse Crisis in the Catholic Church*.⁴ A Vatican letter to him said: 'We question the prudence of publishing such a document.' He retorted 'The response should be clean-up, but it is still all too often cover-up.'⁵

Dr Paul Collins, a well-known Australian ex-priest, confirmed that many priests are deeply disquieted by the totally inadequate response to the child sexual crisis by the Church and its bishops.⁶

Jason Berry and Gerald Renner, in their book *Vows of Silence: The Abuse of Power in the Papacy of John Paul II*, found a trail of evasion and misinformation behind the scandals in the Church. This has its source in the recondite Vatican, which, rather than being concerned with true Christianity, is obsessed with appearance, concealment and self-protection.⁷

Towards the end of 2016, after half a century of further revelations and condemnations, the Christian Brothers finally dismantled Keaney's prominent ornate marble grave at Bindoon, and moved his remains to metropolitan Karrakatta Cemetery.



The remains of evil Christian Brother Paul Francis (Francis Paul) Keaney, having been moved to Karrakatta Cemetery and having been 'erased from history',⁹ were given a deservedly inconspicuous plaque at his new plebeian grave. The plaque makes no mention of his opprobrious past or his extensive sins.¹⁰

¹ See, for example: Coldrey, Barry M. *Religious Life Without Integrity: The Sexual Abuse Crisis in the Catholic Church*.

² Angus, L.B. *Continuity and Change in Catholic Schooling*. p21. Quoted in: Coldrey, Barry M. *A Most Unenviable Reputation*. p12

³ Rigert, Joe. *An Irish Tragedy*. p102

⁴ As at 2020, this book was still viewable at http://www.bishop-accountability.org/reports/2000_Coldrey_Integrity/. It is also available for purchase as a book. Chapter 3, 'Priest and Brother Molestation Techniques', is worthy of examination.

⁵ <http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/spe/2004/runawaypriests/part2.swf> (2013)

⁶ Collins, Paul. *God's New Man*. p92

⁷ Berry, Jason and Gerald Renner. *Vows of Silence*. back cover

⁹ Butterly, Nick. 'Brother erased from history'. *The West Australian*, 25 February 2017.

¹⁰ *Catholic Encyclopedia* ('Salvation') confirms that 'sin is the greatest evil, being the root and source of all evil'.

Keaney and the Praise – the Trigger to these Volumes

Keaney was the ignominious terrorist of Bindoon; the ‘evil sadist’; the man who used innocent young children as slaves; who beat the child John Hennessy to a pulp; ‘the cruellest mongrel that God had ever put on this planet’; the despot who told the children ‘Your mothers were whores, your fathers drunks’; the utterer of the curse ‘May god damn you to hellfire¹ and may your soul rot in hell!’

According to *Catholic Encyclopedia*: ‘The fire of hell is repeatedly called eternal and unquenchable.’ Thus the curse of Keaney willed that these innocent children be burned forever in the life to come. One may well ask, “Is this the true charity of Christ? Is it not of the Devil, ‘the supreme evil spirit’?”²

The malady went higher. Unswayed by kindness, sympathy, or compassion, Archbishop Redmond Prendiville was loath to remove the unsuitable Keaney from his harsh despotic position, because, in the eyes of the Catholic Church, Keaney was ‘above all a builder of character’, ‘the orphans’ friend’³ who spent a ‘life devoted to boys’, and who was also a ‘good and faithful servant of a generous Lord.’

Symptomatic of the chronic sanctimony of the Church, its Propaganda Fide⁴ has revealed its true self in this sordid inhuman drama.

Lionel Welsh summed up the whole squalid business of his experience of applied religious dogmatism:

Today I am able to see the damage that *Draconian religious doctrine* has done to me, and countless thousands of people. Is it strange, or is it coincidence, that 75-80% of the members of AA are Catholic ... In such bigoted teachings, there was no kind and loving God. He had long since been painted out of the picture, and replaced with a portrait of a cruel tyrant whose cronies were happily fuelling the eternal inferno to forever taunt those who had committed the slightest failing.⁵

*

On reading the horrors perpetrated against these guiltless children, coupled with the total absence of remorse or compassion on the part of the Catholic Church, I decided to research the wider scene of this corporation’s negative global history. The further I went with my researches the more of its very dark side and its sinister tentacles that I found. I deemed the collation and presentation of the extent of such information worthy of public record.

¹ The Catholic God, ‘the cruel tyrant’, see below on this page.

² So described by *New Catholic Encyclopedia*.

³ Humphreys, M. *Oranges and Sunshine*

⁴ The word ‘propaganda’ was invent in 1622 by the Catholic Church in naming the ‘Congregatio de Propaganda Fide’ (‘Congregation for Propagating the Faith’).

⁵ Welsh, L P. *Geordie: An Incredible Story of the Human Spirit*, p237. This vindictive Catholic God, and such harsh, inhuman, intolerant religious indoctrination during, and subsequent to the many centuries of Catholic domination, is examined in later volumes of this series. Emphasis added.

My Consequent Reasons for Compiling these Volumes, and What I Discovered

It is the natural tendency of the ignorant to believe what is not true. In order to overcome that tendency it is not sufficient to exhibit the true; it is also necessary to expose and denounce the false. H L Mencken

Rationale

The rationale for the existence of these works dealing with the evil side of the Roman Catholic Church is that expressed by the American abolitionist, freethinker, suffragette and author, Matilda Joslyn Gage, for her work *Woman, Church and State: A Historical Account of the Status of Woman Through the Christian Ages: With Reminiscences of the Matriarchate*:

This work explains itself and is given to the world because it is needed.

A pertinent vindication of the production of these volumes was given by Upton Sinclair in his thought-provoking book *The Profits of Religion*:

To the ordinary man ‘Religion’ means, not the soul’s longing for growth, the ‘hunger and thirst after righteousness’, but certain forms in which this hunger has manifested itself in history, and prevails today throughout the world; that is to say, institutions having fixed dogmas and ‘revelations’, creeds and rituals, with an administering caste claiming supernatural sanction. By such institutions the moral strivings of the race, the affections of childhood and the aspirations of youth are made the prerogatives and stock in trade of ecclesiastical hierarchies. It is the thesis of this book that ‘Religion’ in this sense is a source of income to parasites,¹ and the natural ally of every form of oppression and exploitation.²

The pages of history amply confirm this last sentence – to such an extent that:

Here beginneth the Gospel according to the silver Marks. In those days the pope said to the Romans: When the Son of Man shall come to the throne of our majesty, first say to him: Friend, why comest thou? And if he continue to knock, giving you nothing, ye shall cast him into outer darkness. And it came to pass that a certain poor clerk came to the court of the lord pope and cried out, saying: Have mercy on me, ye gate-keepers of the pope, for the hand of poverty hath touched me. I am poor and hungry, I pray you to help my misery. Then were they wroth and said: Friend, thy poverty perish with thee; get thee behind me Satan, for thou knowest not the odor of money. Verily, verily I say unto thee that thou shalt not enter into the joy of thy Lord until thou hast given thy last farthing.

Then the poor man went away and sold his cloak and his coat and all that he had, and gave it to the cardinals and gate-keepers and chamberlains. But they said:

¹ Refer to, for example: Berry Jason. *Render unto Rome: The Secret Life of Money in the Catholic Church*.

² Sinclair, Upton. *The Profits of Religion*. p17. Emphasis added.

What is this among so many? And they cast him beyond the gates, and he wept bitterly and could find nought to comfort him. Then came to the court a rich clerk, fat and broad and heavy, who in his wrath had slain a man. First he gave to the gate-keeper, then to the chamberlain, then to the cardinals; and they thought they were about to receive more. But the lord pope, hearing that the cardinals and servants had many gifts from the clerk, fell sick unto death. Then unto him the rich man sent an electuary of gold and silver, and straightway he was cured. Then the lord pope called unto him the cardinals and servants, and said unto them: Brethren, take heed that no one seduce you with empty words. I set you an example; even as I take, so shall ye take.¹

In addition, have been the observations of Lord Acton – a highly respected historiographer and a devout Catholic. His ‘is the splendid voice of charity and informed wisdom heard from above the merciless and warring extremists of a sorely perplexed time. His reputation as a master historian, elevated as a mountain of constancy above the flat wastelands, attests that the greatness of a soul is measurable by the duration – the undefeatable vitality – of its moral force ... His studies command a persistent, ever-recurring esteem for his own precious, sacrificial devotion to truth ... Acton’s value to the student of history, and still more to the student of politics and society, is his perennial concern with the grand themes of Power, Democracy, Equality, Liberty, Nationality and Religion.’²

Acton’s conception of the role of history is summarised in his own words:

The inflexible integrity of the moral code is, to me, the secret of the authority, the dignity, the utility of history. If we may debase the currency for the sake of genius, or success, or rank, or reputation, we may debase it for the sake of a man’s influence, *of his religion*, of his disgrace. Then history ceases to be a science, an arbiter of controversy, a guide of the wanderer, the upholder of that moral standard which the powers of the earth, *and religion itself*, tend constantly to depress.³

The volumes of this series aim to follow Acton’s inflexible integrity of the moral code, and to bring to the public the revealed bleak history of the Catholic Church. In so doing, this disclosed history fully confirms the words of the Belgian essayist Count Maurice Maeterlinck:

At every cross-way on the road that leads to the future, each progressive spirit is opposed by a thousand men appointed to guard the past.

Catholic Encyclopedia (‘Heresy’) confirms this warped, repressive ethos:

The integrity of the rule of faith is more essential to the cohesion of a religious society *than the strict practice of its moral precepts* ...

¹ Lea, Henry Charles. *A History of the Inquisition of the Middle Ages*. Vol III. pp624-25. Citing: *Carmina Burana*, Breslau, 1833, pp.22-23. *Carmina Burana* is a manuscript of 254 poems and dramatic texts of the 11th to the 13th centuries. It is mostly bawdy, irreverent, and satirical of the Catholic Church.

² Dalberg-Acton, John Emerich Edward. *Essays on Freedom and Power*. Preface by Herman Finer. pp vii, xi.

³ Ibid. p365. Emphases added.

Additionally, history discloses, for example, that:

‘Innocent III inaugurated the practice of murdering people who would not profess to believe what they did not believe.’¹ Blessed Urban II declared it to be sound Catholic doctrine that the slaying of an excommunicate was not homicide.

‘the plundered peasant could not distinguish between the ravages of the robber baron and of the representative of Christ.’² As example, ‘the monks of Verdun ... did a prosperous trade in buying sons of the peasants of the region, castrating and rearing them, and selling them as eunuch-slaves’.³ The Benedictines in Brazil owned slaves as late as 1864.⁴

In June 1245, Innocent IV opened the First Council of Lyon. Prominent at that time were massive complaints of clerical abuses. There, for example, bishops were described as ‘fishers for money and not for souls, with a thousand frauds to empty the pockets of the poor.’⁵ They, ‘by their example, carried to destruction more souls than they saved by their teaching’;⁶ and ‘confessed themselves unequal to the task of preserving their chastity.’⁷ Accordingly, ‘the lambs were often apt to think, not unreasonably, that they were tended only to be shorn.’⁸

The ministers of the altar, ‘worse than beasts wallowing in their dung’,⁹ gloried in their sins, as in Sodom, and the bishops as ‘dumb dogs that cannot even bark.’¹⁰

Thus was prevalent ‘a priesthood professing ascetic purity as an essential prerequisite to its functions; and practising a dissoluteness more cynical than that of the average layman.’¹¹ For example, ‘priests had not only *not* abstained from virgins and wives, but not even from near relations, nay, not from males *and even brute beasts*.’¹²

Alexander IV does not hesitate to declare that the people, instead of being reformed, are absolutely corrupted by their pastors. ‘The profession of the priest

¹ McCabe, Joseph. *The Story of Religious Controversy*. Ch XXVI ‘The Renaissance: A European Awakening’

² Lea, Henry Charles. *A History of the Inquisition of the Middle Ages*. Vol I. p10

³ See, for example: Valante, Mary A. ‘Castrating Monks: Vikings, the Slave Trade, and the Value of Eunuchs’. *Castration and Culture in the Middle Ages*

⁴ Kahl, Joachim. *The Misery of Christianity: A Plea for a Humanity without God*. p33

⁵ Lea, Henry Charles. *A History of the Inquisition of the Middle Ages*. Vol I. p20

⁶ Ibid. Vol III. p632

⁷ Ibid. *The History of Sacerdotal Celibacy in the Christian Church*. Vol I. p288

⁸ Ibid. *A History of the Inquisition of the Middle Ages*. Vol I. p5

⁹ Baigent, Michael and Richard Leigh. *The Inquisition*. p8

¹⁰ McCabe, Joseph. *The Story of Religious Controversy*. Ch XXIII ‘The Horrors of the Inquisition’

¹¹ Lea, Henry Charles. *A History of the Inquisition of the Middle Ages*. Vol I. p31

¹² Cawthorne, Nigel. *Sex Lives of the Popes: An Irreverent Exposé of the Bishops of Rome from St Peter to the Present Day*. pp36-39. Emphases added.

is the surest road to hell.’¹

St Francis ‘died of a broken heart, because his fraternity quickly went the way of all monastic flesh.’²

‘The high dignitaries of the church vied with the nobles in rapacity and voluptuousness.’ Henri, Bishop of Liège, was a legend who had 70 concubines and 65 bastards by many odalisques, several of whom were nuns. It was reported: ‘He kept as his concubine a Benedictine abbess. He had boasted in a public banquet that in twenty-two months he had fourteen children born.’³

Judges were ‘more base than that of a pimp with his bawds.’⁴

Rome was ‘the most hideous sewer that was ever opened up to the eye of man.’⁵ And, ‘the Roman curia had the reputation of doing anything and everything for money,’⁶

Archbishop Henri de Suze pronounced: ‘The bodies of all persons dying under the said excommunication shall be hung upon trees.’⁷ This ‘was the recognized penalty attached by the church to all who died under her censure.’⁸

‘The supernatural and the miraculous controlled the world. Everything was explained, but nothing was understood.’⁹

Civil marriage was declared by Pius IX to be ‘a filthy concubinage’.¹⁰

‘The pope greatly admired virility, and measured a man’s machismo by his ejaculatory capacity.’¹¹ He also enjoyed ‘contests in fornication’.

Even as late as 1836, an old woman, reputed to be a witch, was twice plunged into the sea at Hela, near Danzig, and as she persisted in rising to the surface, she was pronounced guilty and beaten to death.¹²

Consequently:

¹ de Rosa, Peter. *Vicars of Christ: The Dark Side of the Papacy*. p335

² McCabe, Joseph. *The Popes and Their Church*. Sec I ‘The History of the Roman Church’. Ch V ‘Down the Slope’

³ Cawthorne, Nigel. *Sex Lives of the Popes: An Irreverent Exposé of the Bishops of Rome from St Peter to the Present Day*. p109

⁴ Lea, Henry Charles. *A History of the Inquisition of the Middle Ages*. Vol I. p22

⁵ McCabe, Joseph. *How the Pope of Peace traded in Blood.: The Red Pope*. Ch 1

⁶ Lea, Henry Charles. *Studies in Church History: The Rise of the Temporal Power – Benefit of Clergy – Excommunication – The Early Church and Slavery*. p450

⁷ Ibid. p422

⁸ Ibid. p423

⁹ Ingersoll, Robert Green. ‘On Voltaire’, *The Works of Robert G. Ingersoll*. III. p177

¹⁰ Lecky, W E H. *Democracy and Liberty*. Vol II. p152

¹¹ Manchester, William. *A World lit only by Fire: The Medieval Mind and the Renaissance*. p79

¹² Freytag, Nils. *Manchester Openhive*. <https://www.manchesteropenhive.com/view/> (2021)

The student of history cannot avoid the conclusion that, had it not been for the distorting influence of the Church, mankind would today be incalculably farther advanced along the Path of a progressive, humane, intelligent, code of behavior ...

But the Church has always resisted the process of civilization. It has struggled to the last ditch, by fair means and foul, to preserve as long as it could *the vestiges of ancient and medieval theology*, with all the puerile moralities and harsh customs and medieval styles of belief.

Our gains in culture, in humanity, in social law, in scientific achievement – in all the gentler sides of life – have impressively been due to the efforts of secular thinkers and workers laboring outside the Church. The Church hasn't led in civilization. It '*has always lagged behind the march of civilization*'. It has been a burden to mankind.¹

The ultimate force, therefore, behind the undertaking of these volumes has been the need to reveal from the pages of history the truth about the evil side of this corrupted mutation of the Roman universal empire. My exemplar for this enterprise is that of the rhetorician Lucian of Samosata (c.125-c.180):

The historian should be fearless and incorruptible; a man of independence, loving frankness and truth; one who, as the poet says, calls a fig a fig and a spade a spade. He should yield to neither hatred nor affection, but should be unsparing and un pitying. He should be neither shy nor deprecating, but an impartial judge, giving each side all it deserves but no more. He should know in his writings no country and no city; he should bow to no authority and acknowledge no king. He should never consider what this or that man will think, but should state the facts as they really occurred.²

In pursuing this ideal, my guiding spirit has been the wisdom of both Moshe ben Maimon, usually known as Maimonides, the twelfth-century Sephardic philosopher:

If you wish to go in search of truth, to cast aside your passions, your tradition, and your fondness of things you have been accustomed to cherish, if you wish to guard yourself against error ... the truth ... must be based on the well-known nature of the existing things, as perceived by the senses and the intellect ...

*Truth does not become more true by virtue of the fact that the entire world agrees with it, nor less so even if the whole world disagrees with it;*³ a truth, once established by proof, does neither gain force nor certainty by the consent of all scholars, nor lose by the general dissent.⁴

and that of the Jewish priest and scribe Esdras (Ezra) near the willow-fringed rivers of Babylon more than twenty-four centuries ago:

¹ Haldeman-Julius, Emanuel. *The Church is a Burden, not a Benefit, in Social Life*. Emphases added.

² See, for example: <https://www.age-of-the-sage.org/history/quotations/historiography.html> (2019)

³ *Moreh Nevuchim* 2:15. Quoted in: https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/ais/107771/jewish/Talmudist.htm (2019). Emphasis added.

⁴ Maimonides, Moses. *The Guide for the Perplexed*. pp144,176

As for Truth, it endures and is always strong; it lives and conquers for ever-more.¹

I have been encouraged by the observation of Felice Orsini that:

Time and revolution often bring to light the most secret acts of governments. Truth pierces the clouds at last, which had veiled her so long, and we then perceive the degradation of those men who enjoyed so much public esteem and reputation, who had so often shown their patriotism in no other manner than in declaiming violently against certain systems opposed to their own.²

The volumes in this series aim, therefore, to uphold the integrity of Acton's and Lucian's precepts and to pursue the wisdom of Maimonides and Esdras in revealing the truth about the ceaseless efforts of one religious organisation to depress humanity and the moral standard in pursuit of its own ends.

My Principal Reasons for Compiling this Work

I compiled this series of volumes for four main reasons:

Firstly, my concern that very few people are aware of the full extent to which the Church of Rome has perpetrated evil on the face of the earth, and has cast, and continues to cast, its controlling shadow over the human race.

My hope is that these volumes will reduce this deficiency by compiling, in a concise, orderly, well referenced, and readable form, the immense and sorry factual history of the Church's multitude of iniquities.

Secondly, the fact that the perpetrators of the Church's malevolence have rarely shown any sign of remorse for their evil acts. On the contrary, hypocritical piety has been the face that the Church and continues to present to the world. Literature abounds with the works of Catholic apologists.

'The common excuse of those who bring misfortune on others is that they desire their good,' wrote Luc de Clapiers. This is a most apt description of much of the Church's propaganda. Its apologetics have been a constant production of blatant attempts to ameliorate the public's perception of almost every act of its religious, financial, political, and murderous immorality.

This work is replete with examples of persecution by those who have condoned 'a reign of piety and iron,'³ because they 'knew that they were right,' even though they were wrong.

Exposure of this self-righteous impenitence is one of my aims.

Thirdly, my ardent belief in individual freedom, democracy and the democratic process. Subversion of the democratic principle has been one of the hallmarks of the history of the Church, and is a reflection of its never-ending desire for control.⁴

Professor George Elderkin expressed this succinctly. The individual:

who by tradition is devoted to the ideal of religious freedom may not refuse the

¹ See, for example: Draper, John William. *History of the Conflict between Religion and Science*. p367

² Orsini, Felice. *Memoires and Adventures of Felice Orsini* ... p50

³ See, for example: Hitchens, Christopher. *God is not Great*. p339

⁴ See, for example: de Rosa, Peter. *Vicars of Christ: The Dark Side of the Papacy*. p122

Roman Church the right to a contrary devotion, but he flatly denies its right to impose this belief upon others by devious and violent means.

It is, however, clear that even today the Vatican has not repudiated the drastic means it took to suppress freedom of belief centuries ago.¹ Those who have read Lea's scholarly volumes on the Spanish Inquisition are painfully aware of the excruciating tortures which deviation from Catholic doctrine brought to Christians who anticipated American freedom of religious belief. At that time heresy was the greatest of crimes. The heretic had no rights, and it was a service to God to torture him to death. One reaches the ne plus ultra of spiritual terrorism in the dictum of Pope Eugene IV who in the fifteenth century said, 'No one can be saved, unless united with the Catholic Church, no matter how many his aims or if he sheds his blood for the name of Christ.' Thus a poor mortal, who may have lived but twenty years or so, is consigned to an eternity of hell-fire by a God whose mercy knows no limit!²

Therefore, I am opposed to the political and social pressures being exerted by the Church in its attempts to circumvent the democratic rights of both Catholics and non-Catholics. At present, these are particularly evident in the areas of family planning, public health and voluntary euthanasia. The aggressive pro-life lobby, which is against decisions based on individual conscience, and which is heavily supported by the Church of Rome, is a current example of the Church's long standing bigotry.

For example, in Australia, the opposition to legalised voluntary euthanasia has been vigorously promoted by an alliance of intolerant Catholic politicians and businessmen plus leading Anglicans in an ultra-low-profile group called 'Euthanasia No'.³ Their undemocratic, yet, to date, only partially successful efforts are contrary to the wishes of 70 percent of Australians.⁴ In this context, it is pertinent to remember that for the vast majority of its history, the Church of Rome has been extensively Anti-Life; it has fostered and practised extensive homicide and genocide.

Accordingly, the hypocrisy of the Holy See's stance against individual conscience becomes evident when one considers, additional to centuries of sacerdotal murder, the statement of Pope Leo XIII in the twentieth century:

The Catholic Church has the right and duty to kill heretics because it is by fire and sword that heresy can be extirpated ... The only recourse is to put them to death. Repentance cannot be allowed to save them, just as repentance is not allowed to save civil criminals; for the highest good of the church is *the duty of the faith*,⁵ and this cannot be preserved unless heretics are put to death.⁶

The supreme motive of the Church is the maintenance and extension of its

¹ Catholic casuistic defence of the Inquisition is examined in a later volume of this series.

² Elderkin, George W. *The Roman Catholic Problem*. pp2-3

³ Marr, David. *The High Price of Heaven*. p225

⁴ Ibid. p218

⁵ The proclaimed faith – not truth.

⁶ Quoted by Dr Marianus de Luca, SJ, Institution of Public Ecclesiastical Law (Rome: Gregorian University, 1901). Source: <http://www.crown rights.com/infallibility/conclusion.htm> (2010). Emphasis added.

power¹ – its ever present libido dominandi (lust for power), which demands control over others.² This obsession is circumventing democracy and justice.

I believe in liberty, not tyranny. I believe in justice, not injustice – and find that history confirms the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. that ‘Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.’ I also applaud the affirmation of US Senator Edward Kennedy, a Catholic, who stated:

People of faith should not invoke the power of the state to decide what everyone can believe or think or read or do. In such cases, like abortion or prayer or prohibition or sexual identity, the proper role of religion is to appeal to the free conscience of each person, not the coercive rule of secular law.³

The American jurist David Dudley Field observed that:

The greatest achievement ever made in the cause of human progress is the total and final separation of church and state. If we had nothing else to boast of, we could lay claim with justice that first among the nations we of this country made it an article of organic law that the relations between man and his Maker were a private concern, into which other men have no right to intrude.⁴

Confirmation was given by Robert Green Ingersoll: ‘Our fathers founded the first secular government that was ever founded in this world ... In other words ... no church should be allowed to have a sword.’^{5,6}

Neither is the proper role of religion the imposition of the forceful dominion of canon law, which is one of the salient characteristics of the Latin Church, and of which Pope Pius XII was so great a proponent.

I show in this work the extent to which the Church of Rome has been, and still is, involved in curtailing justice and individual freedoms, and controlling the relations between child, man, woman and their deities. In part, therefore, this work is my contribution to the campaign for increased tolerance of beliefs, conscience, and the democratic rights of the individual.

Fourthly, the Church’s long-standing sexual obsessions have had, and continue to have, disastrous consequences for women, for the world, and for humanity in general.

Over the centuries, the Church, in its persistent lust for power, has eliminated the

¹ See, for example: Gage, Matilda Joslyn. *Woman, Church and State*. Ch X ‘Past, present, future’. Source: <http://www.sacred-texts.com/wmn/wcs/wcs12.htm> (2008)

² de Rosa, Peter. *Vicars of Christ: The Dark Side of the Papacy*. p122

³ Kennedy, Ted, ‘Address’, Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia, 3 October 1983. Quoted in Menendez, Albert J and Edd Doerr. *The Great Quotations on Religious Freedom*. Source: <http://www.positiveatheism.org/hist/quotes/quote-k.htm> (2010)

⁴ Source: <http://www.positiveatheism.org/hist/quotes/quote-f.htm>. Also: H L Mencken’s *Dictionary of Quotations*

⁵ Ingersoll, Robert Green. *Ingersollia*. p54

⁶ An excerpt from the encyclical *Mirari Vos* on ‘Liberalism and religious indifferentism’ of Pope Gregory XVI, 1832: ‘Nor can We predict happier times for the Church from the State and to break the mutual concord between temporal authority and the priesthood. It is certain that that concord which always was favourable and beneficial for the sacred and the civil order is feared by the shameless lovers of liberty.’ Emphasis added.

lives of millions. Accordingly, there is no objective evidence that could lead to a conclusion other than that the Church's current attempts to control the fertility of its laity and all others is simply another aspect of this on-going lust for control and power.

The effective denigration of women to second-class roles in both the Church and society is a consequence of the Church's many biased sexual fixations. For centuries, women were disallowed basic human rights and were treated accordingly. The barbaric mass-extinction of women by the Church as alleged witches followed inexorably from its obsessive attitudes to women, sex and sin. Within the Roman Church, women have a lower status than in any other major institution in the western world. Their voices are rarely heard. This, in spite of the fact that women outnumber men in the Church. It has been stated that there is no record of any woman directly influencing church policy, not even in issues that exclusively affect her sex.¹

Additionally, it seems self-evident that the leading problem facing humanity and the world today is that of an ever increasing over-population.² The world's human population was at the time this work was written (2021) 7,838,000,000 and has increased by 6 billion over the last 200 years.^{3,4}

The greatest threat to the environment and to the Earth on which we live comes from human beings. It is human beings and their activities which destroy the Earth and contribute to climate change. All modern extinction models are attributable to human actions and inactions. Human beings constitute the Earth's major problem.

If the increase of the human population is not slowed, and eventually stopped, this destruction will inevitably erupt. The consequences of not doing so will be inescapable economic, ecological, humanitarian and social disaster. The present level of human expansion is unsustainable by our one and only Earth. The world as we know it will be destroyed.⁵

A vivid example of the consequences of opposition to contraception and abortion by the Church has presented itself in the enormous number of Covid-19 infections and deaths in the overcrowded slums of Catholic Brazil during the years 2020 and 2021.

Professor Victor Stenger recorded in his highly regarded book *God and the Folly of Faith*, that the Church's continuing refusal to allow birth control negates any positive role which it might have in providing for a liveable world in the future.⁶

As Christopher Hitchens has emphasised, the Church's doctrines seem to deny any connection between the 'exponential growth in human population and the spread and persistence of disease, famine, squalor, ignorance and environmental calamity.' In every developing country which has been studied, a positive correlation exists between the limitation of family size and the life chances of the family members.⁷

¹ de Rosa, Peter. *Vicars of Christ: The Dark Side of the Papacy*. p427

² See, for example: <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/>

³ Wikipedia 'World population' (2020)

⁴ A popular website with a continuous population update is <http://www.poodwaddle.com/clocks/worldclock/>

⁵ See, for example: Collins, Paul. *God's Earth*. pp4-5

⁶ Stenger, Victor J. *God and the Folly of Faith*. p319

⁷ Hitchens, Christopher. *The Missionary Position*. p54

From the Center for Research on Population and Security, Stephen D Mumford, a Doctor of Public Health, stated:

Worldwide overpopulation is the greatest risk to public health that we have ever encountered. The single obstacle to solving this problem is not money or the lack of acceptable family planning choices, but the opposition by a small group of extreme reactionaries now in control of the Roman Catholic Church. Uncounted numbers of people are denied access to contraception and abortion by the political machinations of a pope who is, by the dogma of his religion, unable to change his mind. As population pressures continue to mount, democratic institutions on which we depend and the humanitarian values by which we are guided to ensure the health and well-being of all nations are threatened and their security put at risk. It is unconscionable that the lives of so many should be jeopardized because of a vague and arbitrary concept of Papal Infallibility.¹

The need to control human expansion is, therefore, the greatest challenge facing human kind.

Hans Küng, the Swiss theologian who was recently banned from teaching by the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (the Inquisition), wrote an open letter to the Pope:

Can we credibly combat poverty, illiteracy, joblessness, malnutrition, and ill-health in Latin America and the Third World – problems in which an extremely high birth rate constitutes one of the most significant factors – when for our own part we are not prepared to promote a humanly responsible family planning, which would involve the responsible use of contraceptive measures in accordance with the conscience of the marriage partners? Can we credibly stand up for women's rights in modern society when, in the Church, women continue to be treated as subjects with inferior rights and continue to be excluded from ordination on the basis of unconvincing theological arguments?²

The policy of the sexually deprived and sexually aberrant males in the Roman Curia in opposing all realistically effective methods of containing human reproductive rates (*other than their own*) is one of the major factors exacerbating this problem.³ Effectively, the Church claims to value the existence of human life at the expense of all else on earth, including the basic quality of human life⁴ – notwithstanding its record of homicide and genocide. For example, the history of the Church is blackened by its having destroyed the lives of millions of humans in its genocides, its wars, its witch hunts, its slavery, its pogroms, and its Inquisitions. Particularly, the Church has been responsible for the humiliation, degradation, deprivation, beggary, suffering and annihilation of more Jews than any other organisation that has ever existed. Yet the

¹ Stephen D Mumford. Center for Research on Population and Security. <http://www.population-security.org> (2008)

² Source: Adams, Phillip. *Adams vs. God*. p152

³ See, for example: Collins, Paul. *Upon this Rock*. p342

⁴ Collins, Paul. *God's Earth*. pp8-11

Church has never admitted, nor apologised, nor made reparation, nor been punished for its fundamental role in these diabolical sins.

Catholic teaching on this subject of reproduction is a reflection of the Church's encapsulation in its chronic theological cocoon. Its opaque surface blots out the reality of life as it is.

Accordingly, the Church's unnatural and pernicious attitude and practices in the sexual arena, so contrary to the conscientious democratic rights of humanity, strengthened my resolve to place the facts before the public in a coherent, meaningful manner.

What I Discovered

History abounds with instances of extreme Catholic iniquity. They include:

- the inhuman witch-hunts;
- the genocide of Christians by the infamous Albigenian Crusade;
- the much celebrated St Bartholomew's Day massacres of Protestant Huguenots;
- genocides of the Christian Apostolic Brethren, Dulcinians and Fraticelli;
- the vicious Waldensian Holocausts of innocent Christians;
- the French Wars of Religion;
- the many Indigenous American Holocausts;
- the slave galleys of the popes;
- of the sixteen European Nazi and fascist dictators, puppets and quislings, twelve (75%) were Catholics.
- the sale of Jews by Catholic Slovakia to Nazi Germany for extinction; and
- the genocide of Christian Orthodox Serbs during World War II by the Church-supported terrorist organisation Ustaša.

Significantly:

Most of the major participants in the planning and implementation of the Holocaust were born and bred Catholics. A quarter of the members of the Nazi Schutzstaffel (SS) were Catholics.

The principal perpetrators of the Final Solution (Hitler, Himmler, Heydrich and Höss) were born into Catholic families, received a strict Catholic education, and *never* severed their connection to the Roman Catholic Church.¹

German Catholics exhibited an almost unanimous support for Hitler's war.²

Members of the Catholic laity, notwithstanding other reasons, supported Adolf Hitler's wars because:

Church leaders formally required them to do so; the Catholic press and Church

¹ Cymet, David. *History vs. Apologetics: The Holocaust, the Third Reich, and the Catholic Church*. p15

² Zahn, Gordon C. *German Catholics & Hitler's Wars: A Study in Social Control*. p265

organisations gave their total commitment to the Nazi cause; the Church and its values encouraged them to act in the defence of the people and the fatherland; in looking to the religious hierarchy for spiritual guidance and direction with respect to war service with the Nazis they received almost the same answers that they would have received from Hitler himself.¹

My research also revealed:

The chronic criminal history of the Church in the form of widespread bigotry, avarice, mendacity, hypocrisy, murder, genocide, and other evils.

For most of Christian history, ‘there was no far-reaching, no persistent plan to ameliorate the physical condition of the nations. Nothing was done to favor their intellectual development; indeed, on the contrary, it was the settled policy to keep them not merely illiterate, but ignorant. ‘Century after century passed away, and left the peasantry but little better than the cattle in the fields.’

Its hypocrisy – effectively saying, ‘Do as I say, not as I do’.

Its thefts – its refusal to return the many instances of stolen real estate and other property, or to pay compensation for prior iniquities.

The Church’s sanctimonious approbation, downgrading, or denial of many of these evils.

The Church’s displaying a face of sanctity, while its true face is that of a ‘false currency, whose interests are not Christianity, although it has been taught to us from little children, but of ambitions of being able, wealth, political dominion in all the sectors of the society.’²

That the Church is the wealthiest corporation in existence; it is ‘the biggest financial power, wealth accumulator, and property owner in existence.’ It ‘is the greater possessor of material riches than any other single institution, corporation, bank, giant trust, government, or state of the whole globe’,³ it is ‘the most formidable financial empire the world has ever seen’;⁴ it has ‘larger monetary reserves than France, Belgium, Italy and Great Britain put together’; and that by the end of the present century it will control at least one third of the total wealth of Europe and America.

That the biblical Jesus was born, lived and died in poverty; and that he exhorted: ‘One thing is wanting unto thee. Go, sell whatsoever thou hast and give to the poor: and thou shalt have treasure in heaven’.⁵ This the Church has never done.

¹ Cymet, David. *History vs. Apologetics: The Holocaust, the Third Reich, and the Catholic Church*. pp17, 56

² Guillén, Rafael Rodríguez. *The Antichrist in the Vatican*. p21

³ *The Vatican and the poor*. <https://ia801903.us.archive.org/9/items/TheVaticanAndThePoor/TheVaticanAndThePoor.mp3> (2020)

⁴ Manhattan, Avro. *The Vatican’s Billions*. p16

⁵ *Mark 10:21*. Catholic Douay-Rheims Bible.

That some of the poorest people on the planet live in Catholic-dominated countries, such as Brazil.

That the Church, the oldest corporation in the world, with an experience stretching back two millennia, is not only the controller of the largest contemporary empire, but that ‘the ultimate goal of Catholic imperialism is the total Catholicization of the human race. Total Catholicization implies total elimination of whatever and whoever is not Catholic’.^{1,2}

The words of historian Lord Macaulay are confirming: ‘The Church of Rome ... among the contrivances which have been devised for controlling mankind, it occupies the highest place.’

If any person was to judge of the nature and spirit of the Christian religion, by the spirit and conduct only of too many who have professed to believe it in all nations, and almost throughout all ages of the Christian Church, he could scarce fail to censure it as *an institution unworthy the God of order and peace*, subversive of the welfare and happiness of societies, and designed to enrich and aggrandize a few only, at the expence of the liberty, reason, consciences, substance, and lives of others. For what confusions and calamities, what ruins and desolations, what rapines and murders, have been introduced into the world, *under the pretended authority of Jesus Christ*, and supporting and propagating Christianity?³

Johann von Döllinger, Professor of Church History at the University of Munich, wrote: ‘All absolute power demoralises its possessor. To that all history bears witness. And if it be a spiritual power, which rules men’s consciences, the danger is only so much greater, for the possession of such a power exercises a specially treacherous fascination, while it is peculiarly conducive to self-deceit, – because the lust of dominion, when it has become a passion, is only too easily in this case excused under the plea of zeal for the salvation of others.’

The eminent writer and historian Avro Manhattan revealed in his book *The Catholic Church against the Twentieth Century*, that the *Congregation Propaganda Fide* is the organisation that spreads far and wide the Church’s ‘aim of converting to its faith the whole human race. It is the oldest, most powerful and most colossal Ministry of Information or Propaganda Bureau in existence ... This Congregation is called *Propaganda Fide* ...’

The Congregation is ruled by a cardinal, whose power is so great that he is popularly called ‘the Red Pope’. It was established in 1622 by Gregory XV, with the set and open purpose of converting the whole world to Catholicism ...

¹ Manhattan, Avro. *The Dollar and the Vatican*. p12

² This was very evident from the Church’s role in South Vietnam under its protégé dictator Ngô Đình Diệm. See, for example: Stockwell, Antony. *Pius XII: Fatal Manipulator of Men and Nations* - at <https://archive.org/>

³ Limborch, Philippus van. *The History of the Inquisition*. p17. Emphases added.

It has divided the whole world into numerous ‘spiritual provinces,’ in which it directs its activities ... The Congregation controls hundreds of colleges, seminaries, and similar organizations throughout the world ...

Attached to the Congregation is the Association for the Propagation of the Faith, which is a world-wide society of the Faithful to further the evangelization of the world by united prayer and the collection of alms for distribution to the missions. Its headquarters are in Rome, and it is under the direction of the Congregation *De Propaganda Fide*. The motto for the *Propaganda Fide* is that ‘no land is fully Christian. Catholics must dream and plan and act in terms of the whole globe.’ To carry out this plan it has a vast organization of colleges ... where it builds up a formidable machinery of institutions of all kinds to convert non-Christians to Catholicism ...

About 1930, the *Propaganda Fide* directed over 11,00 preachers in missions ... At this period the these missionary enterprises were backed by more than 30,000,000 dollars ...

Such is the spirit which even in the twentieth century moves the Catholic missions throughout the world. The Catholic Church is out to conquer, not only countries or even continents, but the whole planet.¹

Additionally:

‘Its most constant strategy throughout the centuries has been to employ the might of secular allies,’ while simultaneously siding with the strongest nations, firstly, to destroy its greatest current enemy, and secondly, to further its spiritual dominion by using the military or political power of its partners;

Accordingly, this Catholic imperialism struck alliances with the military giants of the time: the Spanish Empire in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the French empire in the eighteenth, the Austro-Hungarian empire in the nineteenth, the German National Socialist organisation in the early twentieth,² and with the USA, a little later, in fomenting the Vietnam War as a means of establishing a base there to foster its spreading tentacles into Asia.^{3,4}

The writer Pepe Rodriguez is licensed in informational sciences, and has specialised in investigative journalism. He is an expert technician in coercive persuasion, and in sectarian problems; and a member of the Interministry commission. With the help of the Old and New Testaments, he reveals:

¹ Manhattan, Avro. *The Catholic Church against the Twentieth Century*. p48ff

² Ample evidence of this Nazi association is given in Stockwell, Antony. *Pius XII: Fatal Manipulator of Men and Nations*

³ *Pius XII: Fatal Manipulator of Men and Nations* also provides ample information on the Vietnam War and its rationale.

⁴ Manhattan, Avro. *The Dollar and the Vatican*. p13

The human foundation of a church which pretends to be of a divine origin, but ‘which is very earthly and human, and which astutely claims to represent Christianity, deceiving the faithful believer.’

How the Catholic Church ended up distorting to its whim all the facts which disagreed with its doctrinal interests.

How the Catholic Church endowed itself with a foundation and legitimacy by manipulating the gospels and converted itself into *an institution of power*: it created an organised structure contrary to the biblical texts – ‘in agreement with satanism.’

‘How the Catholic Church changed the Biblical Commandments of God and invented dogmas specifically designed to better control the believers and clergy, and added apocryphal books.’^{1,2}

Monseñor Dr Rafael Rodríguez Guillén, in his book, *The Vatican Exposed*, reflects through ten chapters ‘how the Vatican is a political party of National Catholicism, a millennial sect, an Antidemocratic Capitalist of false scholastic doctrines, a Satanic Inquisition and millennial dynasty of sorcerer priests, full of sexual corruption ...’³

These facets are clearly revealed in subsequent volumes of this series.

My Conclusions

The very dark side of the history of the Church embraces widespread hypocrisy, bigotry, sanctimony, mendacity, avarice, theft, intimidation, murder, genocide, and other evils.

With the pope at the helm, the Church is the word’s greatest dictatorship – of whom at least fifty percent were unholy.⁴

Inexorably, the pages of history reveal that no other establishment in the world has been responsible for inflicting so much suffering on humanity.

Evil has been defined as ‘morally bad or wrong’, and ‘having or exerting a malignant influence’. It is always human.

In looking at the two millennial record of the inhuman activities of the Roman Catholic Church, an unbiased reader could justifiably conclude that it is the most self-serving, hypocritical, evil, even diabolical, organisation that has ever existed.

My Intent

My aim has been that these volumes be a sober scholarly appraisal of the evil side of the Church of Rome. In this, I am supported by the declaration of the former Professor of Metaphysics and Ethics at St Edmund’s College, and later Dean of

¹ Guillén, Rafael Rodríguez. *The Vatican’s Mafia*. pp77-78

² Biblical apocrypha constitute a set of texts included in the Latin *Vulgate* and *Douay-Rheims Bible*, but not in the Hebrew Bible. They do not appear in the KJV.

³ Guillén, Rafael Rodríguez. *The Vatican’s Mafia*. p78

⁴ Refer to Volume 5 for details of the many insalubrious popes.

Theology at Corpus Christi in London, Peter de Rosa:

It is time to examine with very objective realism, the biblical, moral, and historical deviations which she [the Church] has been deceitfully teaching us, and to correct her errors by writing a new, true history according to the teachings of Jesus Christ.¹

In conformity with the ancient universal moral principle of Catholic moral theology ‘Qui tacet consentit’ (‘silence presumes consent’), the Millenari, in their year 2000 book *The Shroud of Secrecy: The Story of Corruption within the Vatican*, point out that:

Silence that reinforces corruption only maintains the status quo, and does not challenge the *rampant evil in the house of God*.²

They confirm that due to servile conformism, severe judges hasten to condemn a book such as theirs. For authoring it, they, the Millenari, have been considered ‘inept, rebellious, insubordinate, dissatisfied, contemptible, spiteful, and more.’

Notwithstanding, they quote St Giovanni Leonardi who wrote to Pope Paul V concerning how to appropriately effect reform of the Church:

He who wants to effect serious religious and moral reform *must above all, like a good doctor, perform a careful diagnosis of the ills that afflict the Church* so as to be able to prescribe each with the appropriate remedy.^{3,4}

The Church of Rome

I have chosen the Roman Catholic Church as the object of my writings, rather than other Christian denominations, because it:

Lays claim to being the original Christian church.

Claims that it has primacy over other Christian denominations.

Claims to be both a holy and an apostolic institution.

Asserts that to it alone has been committed the assignment of passing down to all ages the benefits purchased for humanity by Christ.⁵

Has claimed, for most of its history, to be the only religious organisation that offers the route to redemption of the soul. ‘This true Catholic faith, out of which none can be saved.’⁶

Has evidenced ‘the weight and selfish blinkerdom of the Catholic organization.’⁷

¹ Guillén, Rafael Rodríguez. *The Vatican's Mafia*. p31

² Millenari, The. *The Shroud of Secrecy: The Story of Corruption within the Vatican*. p11. Emphasis added.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Emphasis added.

⁵ *The Companion to the Catechism of the Catholic Church*

⁶ Boettner, Loraine. *Roman Catholicism*. Quoted in: <http://www.acts2.com/thebibletruth/Intolerance.htm> (2005)

⁷ Carpenter, Edward. *Pagan & Christian Creeds: Their Origin and Meaning*. p199

Has the great problem of its ‘structural mendacity, institutionalized lying.’¹

Has lauded itself munificently:

For only to the Catholic Church do all those signs belong which make evident the credibility of the Christian faith. Nay, more, the very Church herself, in view of her wonderful propagation, her eminent holiness, her exhaustless fruitfulness in all that is good, her Catholic unity, her unshaken stability, offers a great and evident claim to belief,² and an undeniable proof of her divine mission.³

Has performed more evil than all the other Christian organisations combined:

The Holy Fathers shed more blood in defense of their wealth and power than all the other historic religions put together and ... the record of their vices is the worst in the whole history of religion.⁴

Christianity has been the bloodiest and most merciless religion, and has caused more undeserved misery than any other religion, and *Roman Catholicism has been the bloodiest and most merciless denomination of Christianity.*

My Decision

Having discovered:

the above state of affairs;

the lack of almost any impartial revelation of the *global* extent of these evils;

that no comparable work exists in English;

I was prompted to commence writing these volumes. I decided that the world should know the profoundly dangerous reality of this shadowy organisation, the Roman Catholic corporation⁵.

I follow Avro Manhattan in hoping that these works will assist ‘to bring man out of the shadows of past ages into a world in which the rational power of the human intellect shall brighten the individual and collective life of *a deceived and suffering mankind.*’⁶

My exemplar in this enterprise is the 10 volume opus *Kriminalgeschichte des Christentums (The Criminal History of Christianity)* of Dr Karlheinz Deschner.⁷

¹ Berry, Jason. *Render unto Rome: The Secret Life of Money in the Catholic Church*. p353

² More than 400 years before Christ, the philosopher Socrates showed that people can be wrong, even those who are in important positions, even when they support beliefs which have been held for centuries by masses of people, because they have not examined their beliefs logically. See, for example: de Botton, Alain. *The Consolations of Philosophy*. Ch 2.

³ From ‘The Dogmatic Constitution of the Catholic Faith’ of the First Vatican Council.

⁴ McCabe, Joseph. *How the Pope of Peace Traded in Blood*. Ch 1. ‘The Red Pope’.

⁵ So described in *Catholic Encyclopedia*.

⁶ Manhattan, Avro. *The Catholic Church against the Twentieth Century*. p v. Emphasis added.

⁷ Deschner, Karlheinz. *Kriminalgeschichte des Christentums*. This work took him 43 years to complete, covers

My Hope

Were it not for hope the heart would break. Scottish Proverb

In the Bible, Jesus said ‘Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness.’¹ Yet, the Church of Rome has done all of these in abundance.

St Paul exhorted: ‘Be not overcome by evil: but overcome evil by good.’² Consequently, from my works and the many other published exposés of the ubiquitous evil side of the Roman Catholic Church it is my hope that, one day, a more enlightened, compassionate, charitable, and truly loving ethos will arise to supplant the current avaricious, hypocritical, bigoted, dissimulative, mercenary, male-dominated, militant, immoral, propagandising, unholy, anapostolic,³ pseudo Christianity⁴ of this global behemoth. ‘For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God’.⁵

Sadly, for the present, these poignant words still apply, ‘Are ye also yet without understanding?’⁶

— * —

*To the philosopher, who, with piercing eye, would penetrate the world-mist of antiquity, and see the secret springs upon which hinge the rise and fall of mighty nations, how persecution leads to fidelity, how triumph tends to demoralization.*⁷

*war, violence, death and man’s inhumanity to man and other creatures. Such vile behavior has all too often occurred because of religion and unfounded beliefs. The deception of the religion business is appalling, and it’s high time it is exposed.*⁸

all variants of Christianity, but has not been translated into English.

¹ *Matthew* 19:18

² *Romans* 12:21. *Douay-Rheims Bible*.

³ In a subsequent volume, it will be clearly demonstrated that the Roman Catholic Church is neither holy nor apostolic.

⁴ In his books *The Power of the Vatican* and *The AntiChrist in the Vatican*, Monseñor Dr Rafael Rodríguez Guillén has described the underlying ethos of the avaricious politico-ecclesiastic organisation, the Roman Catholic Church, as the practise of a pseudo Christianity called Catholicism. Naturally, he was was maligned by the Church. In fact, he was an outstanding, educated, concerned, outspoken, honest man.

⁵ *1 Peter* 4:17

⁶ *Matthew* 15:16

⁷ H. B. *Two Prize Essays: The Post-Biblical History of the Jews*

⁸ Acharya S. *The Christ Conspiracy: The Greatest Story ever Sold*. Preface.

The Catholic Church is the one true Church,¹ the only true religion,² and the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.³

Religion is all too often a source of evil, in particular of intolerance and violence. This historical fact lies, not as alleged so often, in the idea of an absolute, divine truth, but in a religion's claim to exclusivity.⁴

¹ 'Vatican congregation reaffirms truth, oneness of Catholic Church'. *Catholic News Service*

² See, for example: *Wikipedia*. 'One true church' (2022)

³ *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. CCC 811

⁴ See, for example: Jonkers, Peter. 'Religion as a source of evil'. *International Journal of Philosophy and Religion*. Vol 78, 2017. Issue 4-5: Evil. pp419-31

Volume 1 – Anti-Semitism: the Longest Hatred, the Longest Genocide

This volume reveals in significant detail the two millennial history of the virulent anti-Semitism of the Roman Catholic Church. As a verbal example: ‘coition with a Jewess is precisely the same as if a man should copulate with a dog.’¹

With the usual zeal of a convert, Emperor Constantine promulgated severe edicts against the obstinate Jews, but his proselytizing mania was of no avail; and persecution served but to sink the proscribed tenets deeper into the hearts of the oppressed.

This volume demonstrates that the Church’s persistent barrage of invective and derogatory allegations led to wholesale poverty, degradation and massacres of Jewish men, women and children. For instance, allegedly to obtain Christian blood, ‘Ritual Murder’ by Jews became a Catholic obsession. In one case: the Jews, ‘having been found guilty of the aforesaid crime, were first dragged at the tails of horses, and afterwards hung on a gibbet, where they breathed forth the wretched remains of life.’

Furthermore, under canon law the Jew had scarcely the right of existence and could only survive under conditions of virtual slavery. Additionally, Catholics ‘plundered and persecuted the chosen race until their lives became a curse.’ This Catholic detestation of the Jew developed over the centuries to become the longest hatred in human history.

Ghettos became the unhealthy and humiliating elements of the Holy Father’s unholy policy of Judaic degradation. ‘A Jewish ghetto is a better proof of the truth of the religion of Jesus Christ than a whole school of theologians’.

Theft of Jewish synagogues by the Church has been an ongoing socio-political capitalistic enterprise. A significant one was the Old Main Synagogue in Segovia, which was converted in 1419 into the church of Corpus Christi. It was later transformed into a convent for the inappropriately named ‘Sisters of Penitence’. It has never been returned to the Jews.

In Spain. the Jews had accumulated a heavy debt of hatred against that country; *it had ever been the foremost in their persecutions*; it had ever been the last to sheath the sword of religious hostility. From the earliest times, the Gothic kings of the Peninsula had vied with each other in wreaking vengeance upon the devoted people; the councils of Toledo² had strenuously endeavoured to root out the heretics. The hatred of the Christians, however, overreached itself; for the laws they enacted against the Jews were too oppressive, and could not be carried into effect; they caused many Jews, however, to quit the country, and those who remained, were ground down by misery, oppression, and fear.

Then, the opposite shore of Africa gleamed with the tents of the Saracens, and Tarik³ crossed the narrow strait that flowed between the continent and the peninsula.

¹ Trachtenberg, Joshua. *The Devil and the Jews: The Medieval Conception of the Jew and its Relation to Modern Anti-Semitism*. p187

² The Councils of Toledo and their edicts appear in many places in this volume.

³ Tāriq ibn Ziyād, also known simply as Tarik in English, was a Berber Umayyad commander who initiated the

Then followed a golden age for the persecuted race; they shared with the Saracens all the beauties and luxuries that nature and art could produce to embellish existence in a southern clime; but the languor of this terrestrial paradise did not spread itself to their minds, for some of the brightest emanations of Jewish genius proceed from the reign of the Moors in Spain.

It was in Spain that the Jews attained their highest splendour; they rivalled the Saracens in their advancement in wealth, power, and talent; they enjoyed equal rights and privileges; they had even a disproportionate share of honours and dignities, both ministerial and confidential, and their commerce spread to every part in the known world. They enjoyed so high a reputation that the Talmud was translated into Arabic for the study of the Saracens, and the Arabico-Judaic literature of the school of Córdoba perpetuates their fame. From this line sprang the proudest boast of Jewish talent, the great Maimonides¹, that wondrous theologian, philosopher, and physician, of whom an admiring world may well say, ‘From Moses to Moses there was no one to be compared with Moses.’

The tides of history changed, and Spain, which had witnessed their greatest glory, doomed them to their deepest depression; and the inquisition inflicted a curse upon the power that called it into being, from which it has never yet recovered.

The Crusades afforded a splendid opportunity to the enemies of the Israelites; and when Peter the Hermit with his countless horde of fanatics, arrived at Trier, and while they were advancing to recover the sepulchre of their Redeemer from the Infidels they were leaving far greater infidels behind, then it was that a knell sounded for the destruction of the Jews. The Crusaders rushed to the city; pillage, violation, and massacre ruled supreme; countless atrocities were practised. The flame spread to Cologne, Strasburg, Metz, Mayence, Worms, and Spire – to save themselves from falling by a hated hand, the Jews committed suicide or slew each other.

Rodolph, the Monk, passed through Germany, preaching hatred and massacre, and the flourishing cities on the banks of the Rhine profited but too well by his teaching.

France took up the cry; false accusations were made against the Jews, who in that country had acquired a hold upon almost the whole of the landed property. To slay their creditors was the most convenient method of cancelling their debts and redeeming their mortgages; and it possessed the additional advantage of being eminently adapted to the taste of the turbulent knights. The Jews were banished the kingdom under Philip Augustus.

It was in the reign of this Louis (commonly called ‘the Saint’) that the Jews were first ordered to wear the distinctive garment which received the name of the Rouelle.

In Germany, Frederic the Second strove to stem the tide of hatred against the persecuted nation, but in vain. *The ecclesiastical councils were too strong even for him,*

Muslim Umayyad conquest of Visigothic Hispania (present day Spain and Portugal) in 711-718 CE. He led a large army and crossed the Strait of Gibraltar from the North African coast, consolidating his troops at what is today known as the Rock of Gibraltar.

¹ Moses ben Maimon, commonly known as Maimonides, was a mediaeval Sephardic Jewish philosopher.

and edict was promulgated after edict, breathing a spirit of vengeance and oppression, but the bitterer for contradiction.

Then, France was visited by a pestilential epidemic; the Jews were said to have poisoned the public fountains. In many provinces, and chiefly in Aquitaine, the Jews were burned without distinction. At Chinon a deep ditch was dug, a huge pile erected, and one hundred and sixty of both sexes were burned together.

A second pestilence followed; a second charge of poisoning the fountains ensued, and fresh massacres and renewed fines. Such is an epitome of Jewish history for many years in one of the first kingdoms of Europe; until in the reign of Charles the Sixth, they were banished the country for an indefinite period.

During the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, Germany treated the Jews in a similar manner. As there had been a march of the peasants in France, so there was a procession of the Flagellants in Germany; there was equal intolerance and persecution in both. The victims fled from state to state; they wandered through Silesia, Brandenburg, Lithuania, Bohemia and Poland, oppressed by the nobles, accused by the clergy, hated by the traders and reviled by the people.

England was not advanced beyond the other nations of Europe in religious toleration, and the monarchs of this country rivalled other potentates in impolitic and cruel persecution.

‘The conduct of the popes varied as policy or good feeling dictated. In 1442, Eugenius the Fourth deprived them of almost all their privileges, but his successors acted with greater wisdom ... The pope Paul IV renewed all the hostile edicts against them, and shut them up in the Ghetto. Pius the Fourth removed many of these restrictions; but Pius the Fifth re-imposed them, and expelled the Jews from every city in the States of the Church, except Rome and Ancona.’

‘A new engine of power was required, that while it acted in the name and under the sanction of religion, might exercise dictatorial authority, and the power of life and death over the suspected individuals. This was found in the inquisition, that stern and irresistible ally of the church, that is never spoken of, save in terms of execration and reproach – that is never thought of, save with a shudder of terror. Already it had become infamous by the extermination of the Albigenses¹ and the destruction of the province of Languedoc, and now, fortified by a bull of Sextus the Sixth, its wrath was directed against the newly converted Jews. The tribunal for this purpose was formed at Seville, in 1480; it confiscated all the property of the heretics, and even threatened with excommunication all who should give them shelter; neither rank nor power arrested its denunciations, and the Duke of Medina Sidonia, the Count d’Arcos, and the Marquis of Cadiz alike fell under its displeasure. The prisons were crowded with victims; the scaffold, the auto-da-fe, pestilence and torture were insufficient to clear them, and thousands were banished the country, and fled to France, to Portugal, and to Africa ... the inquisition was rendered permanent under the too-famous Thomas de Torquemada,

¹ The Catholic Church’s vicious genocide of the peaceful and prosperous Christian Albigenses is covered in Volume 3 of this series.

Its power extended to Arragon, where it was ill-brooked; and one of the chief inquisitors was assassinated, while at his devotions in the cathedral. For this a frightful retribution was exacted, and degradation and the flames destroyed many of the noblest families of Spain.'

'The unconverted Jews, who, in spite of torture, threats, and excommunication, had remained steadfast to their God and their faith, had been hitherto left unmolested. But their turn came, and in 1492 was issued the fatal edict, ordering all unbaptised Jews to quit the realm within four months. In vain the eloquence of Abarbanel,¹ seconded by the golden offers of his brethren, pleaded for its revocation; the zeal of the inquisitors overcame the avarice of the king, and the banishment took place. The horrors of this expulsion have become historically famous; the expatriated people were forced into utter ruin; their property was sold at a nominal value; the plague raged in the transports that were to convey them away. Some reached Genoa, to die from starvation on the shore; others perished on the coast of Africa; many were thrown overboard to hinder the spread of the contagion. One party was left naked and desolate on the shores of Africa, with the alternative of being devoured by wild beasts, or swallowed up by the raging sea; another perished from hunger in the neighbourhood of Fez. Those who reached Portugal were heavily taxed for liberty to pass through the country, and then were borne off into captivity, or drafted away to colonize the unhealthy settlement of St. Thomas, or massacred by the fury of the populace. In spite of all, the Jewish faith lingered in the hearts of many of the proudest of the Spanish *Hidalgoes*.²

This hatred of the Jew peaked in 1555 when the malign Pope Paul IV promulgated the Bull 'Cum nimis absurdum'. It was a landmark in the history of anti-Semitism, and is recognised as the most devastating Christian anti-Jewish document ever written. This hatred peaked again during the holocausts of World War II.

In 1750, Frederick the Great issued severe edicts against them, and excluded them from every civic function. In England, meantime, after the reign of Charles II, they had lived in peace, divided, as at the present day, into the two communities of Portuguese and German origin. James II annulled an edict which restricted their traffic; William of Orange reimposed it. Queen Anne was favourable to their conversion, and in 1753, a bill for their naturalization, that had passed both houses, and received the royal assent, was withdrawn, owing to the violence of the popular indignation. In Italy, till the French revolution, they lived in quiet, and enjoyed a restricted freedom, confined to their Ghetto and allotted quarters. In Germany, the progress of the Jewish mind received a sudden impetus from the talent of Mendelssohn, whose genius and application burst every trammel that confined him, and raised him to a proud and acknowledged rank in literature. His talents caused a favourable feeling to spring up towards his brethren, which manifested itself in the kindly treatment they received at the hands of Joseph II.

This volume clearly discloses that in the twentieth century the Church, at all levels,

¹ The Abravanel family is one of the oldest and most distinguished Jewish families.

² *Hidalgo* – a title, denoting a Spanish nobleman of the lower class.

facilitated the ascent of Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party, and enabled the ‘Final Solution to the Jewish Question’. It verifies that most of the major participants in the planning, implementation, and annihilations of the Nazi Holocaust were born and bred Catholics. For example, Karl Otto Wolff was convicted of war crimes of genocide; nevertheless, as an active Nazi he received a cordial welcome and the apostolic blessing from Pius XII. Adolf Hitler was a confirmed Catholic who idolised priests in his youth: ‘I shall remain a Catholic for ever.’ He was *never excommunicated*.

Additionally, it discloses that the Church conducted other holocausts against Jews during World War II: specifically in Catholic Croatia and Catholic Slovakia, both of whose dictators were supported by Pius XII. Said Adolf Eichmann: ‘They offered us their Jews like discarded beer cans.’¹

The subsequent liberation of the Jews saw the creation of their own Jewish State of Israel – in spite of extended opposition by the Catholic Church.

A Brief Summation

‘In Christendom the Jews had, forsooth, enough to suffer from ... councils and priests of a propagandist Church, intolerant of all opposition within and without.’²

‘The persecution of the Jews in the Middle Ages presents the saddest tale of human cruelty and suffering ... the long, dreary record of sickening brutalities, the recurring massacres and expulsions, the numerous and elaborate regulations which were intended to degrade and dishonour the Jews, the fanatical determination to brand them as outcasts condemned by God and man.’³

The potential for evil inherent in extreme religious dogmatism has been actualised in the chronic, endemic hatreds and genocides of the Jews by the ‘One Holy and Apostolic Catholic Church’.

History reveals that the Roman Catholic Church, a self-proclaimed ‘Holy and Apostolic’ corporation, has been responsible for the humiliation, degradation, deprivation, beggary, suffering and annihilation of more Jews than any other organisation that has ever existed. Yet the Church has never admitted, nor apologised, nor made reparation, nor been punished for its fundamental role in these diabolical sins.

It has rightly been claimed of the Jews: ‘Their very persecution has preserved them from merging their individuality in that of other races, and they remain to this day a monument of Christian ingratitude, falsity, and impotence.’

Looking back over the sad history of the Jews and the role of the Catholic Church in this history, there is, perhaps, no better summation than that of the respected historian Henry Charles Lea:^{4,5,6}

¹ These other holocausts are described in Volume 4 of this series.

² Goodman, Paul. *A History of the Jews*. p81

³ Ibid. p83

⁴ *New Catholic Encyclopedia* records: ‘Lea tackled vast subjects with a breadth of conception, industry, attention to detail, and sobriety of style that brought critical acclaim from scholars as distinguished and diverse as Lord Acton, F. W. Maitland, and Bishop Mandell Creighton, but his works are marred by a slipshod and confusing system of reference and by *strong anti-Catholic prejudice*.’ Emphasis added.

⁵ *Your Dictionary* (yourdictionary.com) states that Lea ‘wrote the definitive history of the Spanish Inquisition.’

‘For the infinite wrongs committed on the Jews during the Middle Ages, and for the prejudices that are even yet rife in many quarters, the Church is mainly if not wholly responsible. Occasionally it lifted its voice in mild remonstrance when some massacre occurred more atrocious than usual, but these massacres were the direct outcome of the hatred and contempt which it so zealously inculcated, and, over the centuries, it never took steps by punishment to prevent their repetition.’¹

⁶ Emphasis added. A biased appraisal of Lea appears in the *American Catholic Quarterly Review*, Vol. XIII, 1888, p385ff. Rev. R S Dewey, SJ, claims that: ‘Mr. Lea has done all that in him lies to revive and to perpetuate *the Inquisition mythology*. His volumes will not live except as they support partisan attacks on the great Roman Catholic Church ... We Catholics may feel some natural distress at the renewed odium thus cast upon us ... We are not ashamed of our brethren of the Middle Ages, whenever they were faithful to our holy Mother Church. *She was infallible then as now*. It is our own beloved Pius IX who canonised St. Peter Arbues, the third of the martyred Inquisitors.’ Emphases added. The many and varied Catholic inquisitions and inquisitors are closely examined in later volumes of this series.

¹ Lea, Henry Charles. *History of the Inquisition of Spain*. Vol I. p36

Volume 2 – Annihilation of the Serbian Orthodox, Romani, and Jewish Peoples in Catholic Croatia

The Roman Catholic Independent State of Croatia (NDH)¹ was a puppet state of fascist Italy and Nazi Germany that was established during April 1941 in parts of occupied Yugoslavia during World War II.

This volume reveals in considerable detail that in the NDH fanatic nationalism and extreme Catholic bigotry brought about horrendous genocides. Serbian Orthodox Christians, Romani people and Jews were the principal targets. Many thousands were forced to become Catholic, or die. During the existence of the NDH over 750,000 men, women and children perished – at an average rate of 500 persons per day. Many died of starvation, were executed, tortured, deprived of their eyes and tongues, buried alive, or burned to death. In keeping with this ethos, the Catholics had a song ‘We Ustaše do not drink wine, But the blood of Serbs of Knin’.

Ante Pavelić

Ante Pavelić was the brains behind several political murders that preceded the disintegration of Yugoslavia. He enjoyed the protection of Eugenio Cardinal Pacelli (later Pope Pius XII) who helped him via diplomatic and monetary means to achieve his ultimate objective, the creation of a Roman Catholic State of Croatia.

Pavelić then became the dictator behind the evil events recorded in this volume. He and his henchmen perfected ethnic cleansing (etničko čišćenje). He proclaimed Croatia a ‘Pure Catholic State’, and declared that the NDH ‘must be cleansed of Serbs and Jews. There is no room for any of them here.’ The consequence was disaster. Croatia became a place of atrocious ruin and evil. Throughout Pavelić’s dictatorship the Catholic Ustaše engaged in barbaric genocidal practices against Jews, Orthodox Serbs and the Romani people. For his implacable ethnic and religious militancy Pavelić was known as ‘the Butcher of the Balkans’.

After the War, to evade justice, Pavelić escaped to South America with the assistance of the Holy See. In 1957 he was shot and seriously wounded. Somehow, he escaped to Madrid, and found refuge in a Franciscan monastery there.² He died two years later. His remains have been said to lie in San Isidro Cathedral, Madrid. On his deathbed, ‘the Butcher of the Balkans’ held the rosary gifted to him by Pope John XXIII. Earlier he had received special blessings from his protégé Pope Pius XII.^{3,4}

The Serbian Orthodox Church is shown to have been a particular target of the Catholics. For example, ‘Terrible fate befell Orthodox bishops and hundreds of priests

¹ Nezavisna Država Hrvatska (Independent State of Croatia)

² Deschner, Karlheinz. *God and the Fascists: The Vatican Alliance with Mussolini, Franco, Hitler, and Pavelić*. p209. The evil Franciscans.

³ ‘The beatification of Alojzije Stepinac - To ERR is HUMAN. Thursday, 30 June 2005. Source: Rationalist International, ALLIANCE BULLETIN-3, 18 December 1998’. Source: <http://www.crusadewatch.org/category/why-people-oppose-evangelism/page/16/> (2016)

⁴ Kostić, Lazo M. *Holocaust in the ‘Independent State of Croatia’*. p78

in Croatia.’ They were ‘murdered with exceptional fanatical cruelty’. And, in the diocese of Gornjo Karlovačka alone, 175 of Jesus Christ’s churches were destroyed; others were desecrated by being turned into department stores, slaughterhouses, stables or latrines.

Archbishop Alojzije Viktor Stepinac

After the fall of Yugoslavia, Archbishop Alojzije Viktor Stepinac assisted Pavelić in transforming the new nation into a Catholic fascist state. Stepinac ‘collaborated with Pavelić from the first minute to the last.’¹ Shortly after the creation of the NDH, Stepinac issued a pastoral letter, requesting all the Croatian clergy to support and defend the new Roman Catholic State of Croatia.

This volume clearly verifies that Stepinac, the Primate of Croatia, was a significant power behind these events, particularly so in the field of forced conversions to Roman Catholicism and all the evils that this entailed. In November 1941, Stepinac convened a Bishops’ Conference in Zagreb in which a programme of *forcible* conversions of the Christian Orthodox to the Catholic faith was given canonical authorisation. From then on, the programme was officially followed until the fall of the NDH.

Everything and everyone were made to conform to the ethos of militant Catholicism. All potential opponents were either banished, imprisoned, or executed. Notwithstanding, *Osservatore Romano* (the daily newspaper of Vatican City State) mendaciously guaranteed that the conversion of the Serbs was happening ‘without the slightest pressure from civil or religious authorities.’²

Some idea of the barbarity of the Catholics, under the religious umbrella of Archbishop Stepinac, may be gauged from the following description given by a teacher from Belenice, Peter V Kovačević:

All evils were endured by the Serbs *from the Catholic priests*. We accepted the Catholic faith under conditions of most frightful terror. In our district the thunderer among those priests was Pater Sidonije Scholz. He ordered our local [Orthodox] priest, George Bogic, to be killed in a most bestial manner. They took him out of his home at night and butchered him – cut off his nose, his tongue, his ears and beard; they cut open his belly and wound the intestines around his neck ...³

After the War, the United Nations Commission for Investigating War Crimes confirmed that persuasion had occurred throughout Croatia.⁴ Documents requesting

¹ Gorenflo, Peter, editor of: Deschner, Karlheinz. *God and the Fascists: The Vatican Alliance with Mussolini, Franco, Hitler, and Pavelić*. p16

² Deschner, Karlheinz. *God and the Fascists: The Vatican Alliance with Mussolini, Franco, Hitler, and Pavelić*. p212. Such mendacious material is typical of much of the Catholic press over the last few centuries, as evidenced in this and other volumes in this series.

³ Elderkin, George W. *The Roman Catholic Problem*. p42

⁴ Manhattan, Avro. *The Vatican’s Holocaust: The sensational account of the most horrifying religious massacre of the 20th century*. Ch 7. ‘Catholic Friars, Priests, Executioners, Bishops and Murderers’

and authorising the transfers of Orthodox churches to Catholic parishes and convents were collected in the state prosecutor's office at Zagreb and Sarajevo. They bear the signature of Archbishop Stepinac.¹

Stepinac was not only the Head of the Council of Croatian Bishops and of the Committee that carried out this policy of forcible conversions, he was also the Supreme Military Apostolic Vicar of the Ustaša Army. As such, he participated in military and political functions with both Nazi and Ustaša military commanders.²

Croatian Terrorism and the Church

Thus it came about that in this newly created Roman Catholic Independent State of Croatia, Ante Pavelić, assisted by Archbishop Stepinac and endorsed by Pope Pius XII, initiated the terrible reign of Ustaša terror – *the most ruthless European fascist tyranny ever* – surpassing in ferocity and barbarity even the Nazis.³

For these indisputable services to the Church, Pope John Paul II,⁴ ever the globe-trotting politician,⁵ beatified Stepinac in 1998. The pope waxed lyrical in his praise of the late 'martyred' primate:

Blessed Alojzije Stepinac took the Good Shepherd as his sole Teacher, *following his example to the end ...*

In his human and spiritual journey Blessed Alojzije Stepinac gave his people a sort of compass to serve as an orientation. And these were its cardinal points: faith in God, *respect for man, love towards all ...*⁶

This volume clearly demonstrates that the ultimate force behind all these evils was the Holy See's hatred of the Orthodox Church and the Jews, and its contempt of the Romanies. It also reveals that the *institutional* Catholic Church, from the Vatican down through the hierarchy, to the priests, friars and nuns, was active in these evil events.

¹ Boettner, Loraine. *Roman Catholicism*. Ch 18. Source: <http://www.geocities.com/heartland/plains/2594/pavelic.htm> (2009)

² Manhattan, Avro. *The Vatican's Holocaust: The sensational account of the most horrifying religious massacre of the 20th century*. Ch 3. 'The Birth of a Monster: The Independent Catholic State of Croatia'

³ Ibid. Ch 4. 'The nightmare of a nation'

⁴ John Paul II had a predilection for promoting 'Blesseds' and 'Saints'. He has the distinction of having elevated 1338 beatifications and 482 canonisations – more than all previous popes combined. He also protected Father Marcial Maciel Degollado and Hans Hermann Cardinal Groër. Degollado was revealed to have abused boys and maintained relationships with at least two women, fathering up to six children, two of whom he allegedly abused as well. Groër is alleged to have sexually abused more than 2000 young men. John Paul II also ignored the devastating child abuses in Ireland, 'just as he overlooked sexual misconduct in his Vatican.' Bernard Francis Law was the Archbishop of Boston. He resigned in December 2002 in response to the Catholic Church sex abuse scandal, in which church documents showed that he had covered up sexual abuses committed by dozens of Catholic priests within his archdiocese. Just two years after his resignation, political John Paul II appointed Law as Archpriest of the Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome. This pope was widely criticised over many issues. Nonetheless, presumably having performed two requisite miracles, he was later declared a Saint.

⁵ 'From the moment he became Pope. Karol Wojtyła sought political influence and a role on the world stage.' Yallop, David. *The Power and The Glory: Inside the Dark Heart of John Paul II's Vatican*. Back cover

⁶ http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/homilies/1998/documents/hf_jp-ii_hom_19981003_croazia-beatification.html (2016)

Franciscans, particularly, were dynamic and sadistic killers.

This volume also discloses that following the collapse of the NDH in 1945, the Vatican actively assisted the escape of war criminals from the international justice system to safe havens overseas, mostly to Catholic dominated countries in South America.

Pius XII also secretly pleaded with Washington and London on behalf of notorious criminals and Nazi collaborators, and from August 1945, the Holy See sought to circumvent the extradition of Ustaše to Yugoslavia for claimed crimes against humanity.

The Vatican has also done everything in its power to obliterate all reference to, and information about this squalid side of the Catholic Church's activities. It continues to practise a 'deliberate policy of disinformation'.

Franjo Tuđman was a Catholic. In 1990 he became president of Croatia. He and his party all but formally rehabilitated the World War II fascist NDH. He then led Yugoslavia into civil war, and played a leading role in the destruction of that country and in the further genocide of Orthodox Serbs. Had he lived long enough, Tuđman would have been found guilty of war crimes.

Catholic Croatia remains a Church-dominated country, accordingly, anti-Semitism, anti-Serbianism and Antiziganism still exist there.

In recent years, there have been significant manifestations of far-right politics in the Republic of Croatia. Individuals and groups that support far-right politics are most often associated with the historical Ustaša movement, hence they have connections to neo-Nazism and neo-Fascism.

Roma

The Roma (Gypsies) constitute an ethnic group living mostly in Europe.

Otto Adolf Eichmann recommended that the 'Gypsy Question' be 'solved' simultaneously with the 'Jewish Question'. Thus the 'Final Solution' was also directed against Gypsies, who constituted a defined racial group targeted for extermination. About half a million Romanies were killed in the consequent Romani Genocide ('Porajmos'). This genocide was most intense in Croatia, where possibly around 98 percent of the Roma (80,000-100,000) were liquidated by Catholic Ustaše.

Almost the entire Romani population was killed in Croatia, Estonia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. Additionally, the Nazis murdered tens of thousands in the German-occupied territories of the Soviet Union and Serbia, and thousands more were confined in so-called Gypsy camps (*Zigeunerlager*). Roma were also sent to the concentration and killing centres at Auschwitz-Birkenstock, Chełmno, Bełżec, Sobibor, Treblinka, Mauthausen, Sachsenhausen, Buchenwald, Dachau, Ravensbrück and Bergen-Belsen.

In German-occupied Europe, the fate of Roma varied from country to country. They were generally interned and deployed as forced labourers in Germany, or transported to Poland either to be used as forced labour or to be killed.

In the Baltic States and elsewhere in occupied Soviet Union, possibly at least 30,000 Roma were annihilated. In occupied Serbia, the total number of Roma killed will never be known. Estimates range between 1000 and 12,000.

In France, Vichy French authorities intensified restrictive measures against, and harassment of Roma, but shipped relatively few of them to camps in Germany.

The authorities in Romania did not systematically annihilate the Roma population. However, Romanian military and police officials deported around 26,000 Roma to Transnistria where thousands died from disease, starvation, and brutal treatment.

The Porajmos was most intense in former Yugoslavia (including Catholic Croatia), where around 90,000 Romanies were killed. Under Catholic leader Ante Pavelić, tens of thousands of Croatian Roma were put to death in concentration camps. Of the 40,000 Roma living in Croatia itself, only 800 survived (98 percent were eliminated).

In Catholic Slovakia, under Msgr Jozef Tiso, ‘a loyal son of the Church’, the Romani were persecuted as early as March 1939. After the occupation by Germany, mass killings of Roma occurred in many places.

Under Catholic Benito Mussolini, the first expulsions of Gypsies from Italy took place as early as 1926.

Over all, it is not known how many Roma were killed in the Holocaust. Of slightly less than one million Roma believed to have been living in Europe before the war, the Germans and their Catholic dictator partners were responsible for the deaths of around 500,000 Roma.

Conclusion

The descriptions in this book of the atrocities committed by the Ustaše and other Catholic murderers confirm the determination of the Spanish essayist José Bergamín Gutiérrez:

An ignorance of Marx is as frequent among Marxists as an ignorance of Christ is among Catholics.

Finally, the Holy See¹ has never apologised, nor made reparation, nor been punished for its central role in these horrendous sins. This volume affirms, as do all the others in this series, that this self-proclaimed ‘holy’ institution continues to abnegate its chronic and persistent unholy ethos and history.

¹ The inappropriately named Holy See is a euphemism for ‘Holy Seat’, which is the translation of its official Latin title ‘Sancta Sedes’. The Catholic *Code of Canon Law* states that the term ‘Holy See’ “applies not only to the Roman Pontiff but also to the Secretariat of State, the Council for the Public Affairs of the Church, and other institutions of the Roman Curia, unless the nature of the matter or the context of the words makes the contrary evident” (#361).

Volume 3 – Crusades, Wars, Massacres, Genocides and Holocausts from Late Antiquity to the Age of Enlightenment

The Catholic Church has moulded cultures in which wars, crusades, and genocidal violence have been endemic. The enormous numbers of these military actions have been at the forefront of occidental history for centuries.

Crimes against humanity in a broad, moral sense, may be viewed as the widespread or systematic attack, oppression, or destruction of a group of civilians.

A ‘Just War’ is a concept fabricated by the Church very early in its history. Many of the crusades, and all of the wars, genocides and holocausts conducted by the Church, were crimes against humanity. Not one of them was just.

Under Catholicism, during its early period and throughout most of the Middle Ages, ignorance was bliss and massacres were common. The holocausts, genocides and military expeditions recorded in this book reveal that for much of its history, Roman Catholicism has been a ruthless, belligerent religion.

With few exceptions, the victims were either converted or deleted by the Catholic Church. And it grew rich in the process.

As the world’s most prolific perpetrator of wars, genocides and holocausts, the Catholic Church has, for millennia, set God aside and taken direct dominion over millions of human lives. Accordingly, ‘Pro Life’ is a modern *political* concept quite out of keeping with the general homicidal ethos of the Church. Its real purpose is discussed in a later volume of this series.

The Church’s wars and genocides have involved hatred; and hate mongering is an acquired skill. Hatred, negative propaganda, and their consequences have long been practised by the Church.

The popes were major belligerents in the Middle Ages. At least 31 of them were the instigators of such hostilities. Their causes were not only religious, but also included the acquisition of wealth and land (for themselves, and often for family), and the extension of papal *political* power. A few participated directly in the battles and were passionate about war.

Holy Leagues were alliances formed during the fifteenth to eighteenth centuries by various parties to combat other parties. Some were religious, others political. Most involved the popes.

Crusades

In those times, a militaristic ethos was adopted by the Church. The ideal Catholic was considered to be a sword-wielding warrior who was urged to kill for Christ’s sake. Papal plenary indulgences were offered as inducements. Earthly advantages included exemption from debt, taxation and payment of interest. Generally, the motives of Crusaders were greed, love of fighting, and liberation from feudal burdens.¹

¹ *Catholic Encyclopedia* advises that ‘An indulgence is the extra-sacramental remission of the temporal punishment due, in God’s justice, to sin that has been forgiven, which remission is granted by the Church in the exercise of the power of the keys, through the application of the superabundant merits of Christ and of the

The Crusades to the Holy Land – the ‘pointless Crusades’ – have been described as having been a series of wars of subjugation embellished with religion. Thus, they were a series of ‘rabidly savage battles’ that were religiously sanctioned. The majority were the fruits of ambitious popes who sought to extend the political and religious power of themselves and the Church. In the process, the papacy gained considerable wealth.

Like all wars, these Crusades were designed to slaughter, maim, and pauperise their victims. Generally, the crusaders behaved execrably, despoiling property, and sparing neither men, women, nor children. Many Jewish communities were attacked by the crusaders en route.

The sacking of Christian Orthodox Constantinople soured relations between the Western and Eastern Churches for centuries.

Generally, the Major Crusades were military and moral failures.

Overall, the Holy See employed a wide range of arguments to justify its crusades against its enemies; it built up an extensive and effective apparatus of preaching to propagandise these arguments; and it strove to organise the resulting military contributions of the respondents.

The European Crusades were undertaken for a variety of reasons. The victims included Christian ‘heretics’ and ‘schismatics’, pagans, communities that the popes wished to embrace within their power, and even Catholics themselves. Other crusades were undertaken for political and sundry assorted reasons.

These crusades were waged by much of Catholic Europe.

The Church conducted a vast number of these crusades in Europe. Commencing in the eleventh century, Roman Catholic militancy was endemic for 500 years. There were at least a dozen Northern Crusades. The Church was responsible for at least 14 Central and Eastern European Crusades and other such like wars. The Church was also responsible for at least 55 crusades and wars in Southern Europe and other places.

The Northern European Crusades have been euphemistically termed ‘armed pilgrimages’. The motivation of the invaders, principally knights, monarchs, and prelates, was cupidity – the acquisition of territory, power and revenues – rather than holiness.

The overall consequence of the Northern European Crusades was that the Baltic world was transformed by military conquest. The force used against these peoples was fierce and violent. They underwent defeat, baptism, military occupation and sometimes bloody extermination by groups of Catholic Germans, Danes and Poles.

During these military actions, there were at least 100 battles waged against the innocent.

Among the Southern European Crusades, significant numbers were waged against Catholic lay powers in Italy, many of whom were not even accused of heresy. They

saints, and for some just and reasonable motive ... By a plenary indulgence is meant the remission of the entire temporal punishment due to sin so that no further expiation is required in Purgatory.’ Killing for Christ’s sake was deemed to be a just and reasonable motive for the granting of the indulgence. Catholic faith demands belief in the existence of Purgatory.

were responses to what the papacy believed were attacks on its *temporal possessions* and rights, and those of its allies and vassals.

The popes, almost without exception, were the perpetrators. At least 29 of them were responsible for these acts of war. Innocent III, Gregory IX, Alexander IV, and Urban V were aggressors who promoted multiple crusades.

Overall, the Holy See employed a wide range of arguments to justify these crusades against its enemies. It strove to prove that its crusading cause was just – that the wars were indeed related to ‘spiritual matters’, and therefore the crusades were causes for God.

The Holy See built up an extensive and effective apparatus of preaching to propagandise these arguments.

As a consequence of the belligerence of the Church, millions of people were either murdered, or, made destitute, deprived of their lands and livelihoods, forced to adopt Roman Catholicism, enserfed, and enslaved.

Wars and Genocides

Apart from the many crusades, the Church engaged in numerous other major mediaeval wars, and genocides. The popes were the leading powers behind most of these evils.

The Dulcinian movement was a religious sect that originated within the Apostolic Brethren. The Dulcinians were inspired by true Franciscan ideals. The name derives from the movement’s leader, Fra Dolcino of Novara (c.1250-1307), a son of a priest in the diocese of Novara, and a member of the Order since 1291.

In 1306, Pope Clement V called for a crusade to crush the movement. After a final assault in 1307, when many were killed, they finally surrendered; 150 were captured and later executed.

Dolcino was captured alive and taken to Vercelli. He was tortured with hot instruments; his fingers, nose and ears were amputated; and his tongue and eyes removed. Then he was burned at the stake on the orders of Clement V, a ‘deeply corrupt man’, who was ‘a public fornicator’ and ‘a whore-monger’.

Unsavoury Ecclesiastics

The popes employed a variety of unsavoury men to aid their political ambitions. Among these were mercenaries, otherwise known as condottieri. A famous condottiere was the Englishman Sir John Hawkwood (c.1323-1394). A telling battle in which he engaged was that of Rubiera in 1372. It was fought between papal forces and Bernabò Visconti, Lord of Milan.

Catholic ecclesiastics were not without their martial skills. For example, Cardinal Robert of Geneva was well known for his ability to decapitate a man with a pike. He was also an expert in the tactical use of the pikemen from Brittany. He marched over the Alps with a contingent of these pikemen, and massacred every man, woman and child (30,000) whom he could find in the Italian town of Cesena. In 1375, he personally led 6000 cavalry and 4000 infantry into Florence and Bologna and subdued

these cities by massive brutality. The French cardinals elected Robert pope. He took the name Clement VII.

Papal police featured strongly in the centuries of repression and subjugation in the Papal States.

Additionally, the popes had their own executioners. The best known, Giovanni Battista Bugatti, performed 516 executions for the popes, some merely for larceny.

To this day, the popes retain their military ethos by employing the Pontifical Swiss Guard, which has access to machine pistols and submachine guns.

Holocausts

The holocausts conducted by the Catholic Church introduced genocide into the West by linking perceived spiritual salvation with mass murder.

The first of these was the Albigensian Holocaust. It was a terrible war of extermination that lasted some 120 years; was one of the cruellest events in French history; was a massacre almost without parallel in European history; left a ruined and impoverished country; annihilated the brilliant democratic Languedoc civilisation; was the first 'Final Solution', and was therefore the precursor to the Church's other genocides and holocausts, and to the Nazi's 'Final Solution to the Jewish Question'.

The town of Carcassonne became famous for its role in the Albigensian Crusades when it was a stronghold of Occitan Albigenses. In August 1209, the crusaders forced its citizens to surrender. One estimate stated that 12,000 victims were slaughtered in the Carcassonne Cathedral. The French warlord, Simon de Montfort, slowly killed his victims by torture before burning them. He had the eyes torn out of those he spared.

Few groups have suffered persecutions as long and as terrible as the Waldensians, who were hunted down and slaughtered for hundreds of years by the Inquisition, by the Church's crusades, and by Roman Catholic secular forces.

This Waldensian Holocaust is yet another example in which the Catholic Church prescribed and orchestrated wars of extermination against Christians in a Christian land.

Ultimately, the Waldenses constitute one of the few 'heretical' Christian sects to have survived the multitude of Roman Catholic vindictive campaigns of deprivation and annihilation.

Other Nefarious Activities

During the Huguenot Age, of approximately one hundred years' duration, France witnessed one of the most emotional and disastrous series of wars that Europe has ever experienced. The dominant factor was the fate of French Protestantism in a land predominantly Catholic. Ultimately, after inflicting many deaths, the Catholic Church lost its stranglehold on the beliefs and lives of non-Catholic French people.

It is noteworthy that the Virgin Mary has supported many of the wars and genocides of the Catholic Church. This is evidenced by, firstly, her being the eponym of some of the prominent military religious orders, and secondly, the many references to 'Our Lady of Victories' and other militant titles conferred on her.

Slavery has been endemic within the Catholic Church for most of its existence. Popes have sanctioned and encouraged the practice of slavery, and have themselves owned slaves.

Christopher Columbus, ‘the father of genocide and slavery in the Americas,’ was a Genoese-Spanish Catholic. He was sustained by his strong religious faith, and resolved to ‘cleave to the Holy and Sacred Scriptures.’

Columbus began the practice of capturing and sending American natives back to Spain as slaves in order to repay the funding for his expeditions, thus beginning the pattern of the transatlantic slave trade. He also imported vast numbers of indigenous people from other islands to work for him, depopulating those islands in turn. Soon, so many of these people died that the Spanish turned to Africa as their new source for slaves. The first Africa-to-Caribbean slave trade was carried out by Columbus’ son, only twelve years from the founding of Columbus’ colony.

The indigenous cultures extant in meso-America at the time of the initial Catholic invasions were ‘the most devoid of wickedness and duplicity’. Generally, their civilisations had ‘impressive achievements’, such as well organised democratic systems, brilliant architectural skills, thriving cities, and highly developed religious heritages.

By contrast, the Roman Catholic conquest of these lands involved extraordinary sadism, barbarities, slavery, and homicides. These evils included torture, incineration, impalement, rape, disfigurement, and being eaten alive by specially trained attacker dogs.

The imposition of slavery on the indigenous peoples was conducted on a vast scale. Millions died from overwork, malnutrition and disease.

The Church spared no efforts in Catholicising the local peoples and in stealing and ‘re-purposing’ indigenous religious sites to Roman Catholic sites.

Roman Catholic priests burned all Mayan and Aztec codices, declaring they were ‘written by the devil’.

The Church initiated Indian ‘re-education’ – different monastic orders colonising specific localities. The consequent ‘eradication of idolatry’ led to the wholesale destruction of entire cultures. The result was cultural and religious genocide on a vast scale.

Summary

The total number of crusades, wars and military actions conducted by the Catholic Church over the period covered in this volume is well in excess of 100.

It is indisputable that the Catholic Church has been the world’s single largest perpetrator of wars, genocides and holocausts. Consequently, it has been significantly Anti-Life.

Accordingly, for most of its history, universal self-serving sadism and homicide have been the hallmarks of the ‘One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church’.

Volume 4 – Wars, Massacres, Genocides and Holocausts during the Modern Era

In contrast to the direct European *military* activities of the Catholic Church disclosed in the previous volume, during the Modern Era the Church extended its chessboard and changed its strategy to that of intervention in the *political* affairs of the European dictators, the United States, South East Asia, and Africa. This new ploy involved it being at the forefront of the initiation of most of the world's major wars.

World War I

Ignoring informed advice, the ambitious Eugenio Pacelli (the future Pius XII) engineered the *Serbian Concordat* of 1914. It 'was a blunder of the first order', which most historians consider to have contributed to the outbreak of the First World War. The 'Vatican had failed to consider the contribution that it would make to tensions in the region.' Four days before Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated in Sarajevo, the Holy See and the government of Serbia signed the *Concordat*. This seriously antagonised Austria. 'The Austrian press and people consider the Serbian Concordat a major diplomatic defeat for their Government.' World War I commenced.

Nazi Holocaust

Adolf Hitler's Holocaust was the worst military genocide in history. Its object was the systematic elimination of all European Jews. In total, one third of all the Jews then in the world, were obliterated. Hitler was a Catholic, as were most of his principal partners in the Reich. Half the population of the Greater Reich was Catholic. Under a Catholic majority, more than 3 million Jews of Poland were liquidated. In Catholic Hungary, most Jews were either deported to concentration camps or were murdered by Catholic fascists. Catholic Austria played a key role in the Nazi crimes. Many of the major figures in the extermination project of the Third Reich were Austrian, as were over 75% of commanders and 40% of the staff at Nazi death camps.

Slovakian Holocaust

Catholic Jozef Tiso studied for the priesthood, and after graduation was steadily promoted within the Church. With the creation of Czechoslovakia in 1918, Tiso embraced politics as a career, and joined the Slovak People's Party. By 1939, he was its chairman. Regions of Czechoslovakia were annexed to the German Reich, and Slovakia was declared an autonomous region. Tiso became President. Soon after, the Hlinka Guard began terrorising Roma and Jews. Slovakia was the only country that paid Germany to accept its deported Jews. Said Adolf Eichmann: 'They offered us their Jews like discarded beer cans.' Jewish scholarship is universal in its condemnation of Tiso and his anti-Semitism.

Croatian Holocaust

Devout Catholic Ante Pavelić ('Butcher of the Balkans') was the driving force behind this genocide. Widespread unimaginable atrocities were inflicted on Serbs and Roma. The bigotry and bestiality were reflections of the Catholic ethos and mentality which were confirmed by Mile Budak, Minister of Education and Culture: 'our acts stem from our devotion to religion and to the Roman Catholic Church.'

Mussolini's Wars

Hitler and Mussolini established the Axis in 1936. In 1940, Mussolini became an active partner in the Holocaust. He was the dictator who said: 'for my part I prefer fifty thousand rifles to five million votes.' Believing Mussolini's Fascism to be of benefit to itself, the Church supported and encouraged his rise to power and the establishment of his fascist state. Accordingly, it failed to condemn his many wars including those against Abyssinia, Libya, Albania, and Greece. 'The Abyssinian War ... accelerated the process of a great venture which Fascism, in close alliance with the Vatican, initiated in a quest for Continental and World dominion.'

Spanish Civil War

The Spanish Civil War was a major conflict fought between left- and right-wing factions. Francisco Franco was a Catholic soldier. The Church set up, supported, participated in, and eventually whitewashed him and his right-wing supporters and the atrocities and genocides perpetrated by them. An estimated 400,000 people died as a result of the War. Over one million people were either imprisoned or sent to labour camps. The violence perpetrated during Franco's war was legitimised by the Church. Authority, absolute and uncontrolled, 'was invested in one man, who became the cornerstone of a State built as an exact model of the Catholic Church.'

Vietnam War

The Vietnam War, a US-Vatican collaboration, was a classic example of 'effective Catholic pressure by pushing America, inch by inch, into the Vietnamese quicksand.' The Catholic lobby recruited the most influential Catholics or pro-Catholic personalities in the US. These included Cardinal Spellman, Joseph McCarthy, Joseph Kennedy, and John F Kennedy. The ultimate reason why people died in Vietnam was Pius XII's Holy See's passionate desire to make the Asian region Roman Catholic. The War lasted nearly twelve years before it ended in failure. Millions died, North Vietnam was devastated. The Việt Minh survived. The Catholic Church, the ruthless imperialist, has glossed over its total sordid contribution.

Rwandan Genocide

The Rwandan Catholic Church, from the beginning of colonisation to this day has assayed to remain powerful, and sought to Catholicise the country. Missionaries were immensely influential in Rwandan society throughout its modern history. Religious officials, backed by their respective churches, were directly involved in the promotion

of criminal ideologies that led directly to the Genocide. 'Let us recall that there was no single institutional home, no mortuary, bigger than the Church for the multiple massacres that marked the Rwandan horror. After all, but for the army and the Church, the two prime movers, the two organizing and leading forces, one located in the state and the other in society, there would have been *no* genocide.' Catholics were the major killers. The Church remains uncontrite and unpunished.

Summary

The modern era has witnessed the Catholic Church conducting wars, genocides and holocausts to further its unchristian self-serving aspirations.

Volume 5 – The Inquisition – Prelude I: The Popes, the Church, and their Degradation of Christianity and Society

Religion. A daughter of Hope and Fear, explaining to Ignorance the nature of the Unknowable. Ambrose Bierce.

The subject of The Inquisition is so extensive and much of it controversial (particularly among Catholic apologists) that it has been necessary to present the full picture in several consecutive volumes.

This volume reveals that the Bishops of Rome stepped right into Caesar's shoes and that the Roman Catholic Church is simply the Roman universal empire.¹

'There once was a time when all people believed in God and the church ruled. This time was called the Dark Ages.'² This volume also reveals that the Church has never fully left these Dark Ages.

'In a political sense, Christianity is the bequest of the Roman Empire to the world ... Rome, doubtfully the place of death of Peter, not Jerusalem, indisputably the place of the death of our Savior, became the religious capital.'³

Jesus Christ – 'How obscure and unpretending was his life! His occupation was to heal the sick and to discourse of God in parables with a few fishermen, who did not always understand his words.'

In contrast to the gentle simplicity of his life and precepts, history reveals that Roman Catholicism ceased early to be the Christianity of Christ – a religion of 'good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people'.⁴ It 'had unhappily parted with its ancient purity and simplicity.'⁵ Instead, it espoused Pagan complexity and embraced Imperial Roman ambitions, organisation, administration and paraphernalia. These actions resulted in the rise of over-whelming power and the control of society by the popes and their church.

In this context, it is especially symbolic and significant of its dark side that the Roman Catholic Church adopted, and continues to use the language, *not* that which the biblical Jesus spoke, Aramaic, but that of his deicidal crucifiers, Latin.

The Degeneration of Christianity

In the process, Catholicism became, and still is, a religion of sin: a sin-obsessed, guilt-oriented, fearful, autocratic, dissimulative, restrictive, vindictive, evil, fictitious Christianity. It is marked by the 'prostitution of the name and authority of Christ by those who professed to be acting in His name and for His cause.'⁶ It developed an 'all-

¹ Leo Herbert Lehmann and Cornelis Petrus Tiele.

² Richard Lederer.

³ Draper, John William. *History of the Conflict between Religion and Science*. p34

⁴ Luke 2:10

⁵ *A Brief History of the Moravian Church: A Series of Papers Prepared by Teachers of the Salem Home Sunday School for the Use in Classes*. p11

⁶ Lea, Henry Charles. *Studies in Church History: The Rise of the Temporal Power – Benefit of Clergy – Excommunication – The Early Church and Slavery*. p420

pervading corruption’ ‘in which the spirit of the Gospel was lost in the all-absorbing interests of the temporal power’¹ and wealth.

Consequently, over centuries, the popes and other clerics, with the assistance of innumerable inventive theologians,² created ‘that singular polytheism, which had been grafted on Christianity’,³ and which became the pseudoChristianity⁴, ‘that newer form of Paganism called Christianity’,⁵ known as Roman Catholicism – that was, and is ‘religiously corrupt, and politically dangerous.’⁶

Former Catholic professor of scholastic philosophy, Joseph McCabe,⁷ wrote that the religion Taoism, which Lao-Tse is generally said to have founded, ‘has as little relationship to his teaching as the Roman Catholic system has to the teaching of Jesus.’⁸ And the Spanish writer, poet and essayist José Bergamin Gutiérrez found that ‘An ignorance of Marx is as frequent among Marxists as an ignorance of Christ is among Catholics.’⁹

Power

History reveals that the popes attained their power with the aid of invincible ignorance, fraud, and superstition, and consistently strove to perpetuate the sources of their power and influence:

This remark will be justified by a glance at the chronology of corruption ...

human tradition and will-worship had made considerable progress when *Constantine* ascended the imperial throne.

Monasticism, which was first practised in the third century, was established in the fourth;

in the fifth, prayers were offered to *saints*, *pictures* placed in churches, *incense* used in them, and the doctrine of *purgatory* began to be taught;

the exclusive use of the *Latin language* in public worship was enjoined in the seventh;

image worship triumphed over opposition in the eighth;

¹ Lea, Henry Charles. *Studies in Church History: The Rise of the Temporal Power – Benefit of Clergy – Excommunication – The Early Church and Slavery*. p421

² Theology, so aptly described by H L Mencken: ‘Theology is the effort to explain the unknowable in terms of the not worth knowing.’

³ Hallam, Henry. *History of Europe during the Middle Ages*. Vol II. p228

⁴ So described by Monsignor Dr Rafael Rodríguez Guillén. <http://christianprogress.com/biography.htm> (2011). Dr Guillén was born in Sevilla in 1927.

⁵ Wheless, Joseph. *Forgery in Christianity: A Documented Record of the Foundations of the Christian Religion*. Ch VI ‘The Church Forgery Mill’.

⁶ Dalberg-Acton, John Emerich Edward. *Essays on Freedom and Power*. p189

⁷ Joseph McCabe had a flair for languages. He spoke/translated Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Syriac, German, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, and possibly others.

⁸ McCabe, Joseph. *A Biographical Dictionary of Ancient, Medieval, and Modern Freethinkers*

⁹ https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/jose_bergamin (2019)

transubstantiation was invented in the ninth;

indulgences were given as early as the tenth, and came generally into use, till the system was perfected in the fourteenth by Pope Clement VI;

the *rosary* and the *scapular*, the adoration of the *sacramental elements*, the universal duty and necessity of *auricular confession*, the *inquisitions* and numerous minor abominations, are dated in the thirteenth century in which age, the *forced celibacy of the clerical order*,¹ so long the subject of fierce contentions, was finally established;

the first [profitable] *jubilee* was established in 1300, and in that and

the following century very many *festivals* were established in honour of supposed saints,

and the finishing touches were given to the *fabric of superstition*.²

Ultimately, the Church's annals disclose that those things that have concerned its leaders most have been 'property, power, and obedience'.³

Catholic Encyclopedia states that 'The Church is a worldwide corporation ... Her members all over the world are united by ... *obedience* to a common authority.'⁴ Effectively, therefore, the Church is, in today's terms, an exploitive, repressive multinational corporation.

Politics and Engendered Ignorance

Additionally, the Church is a political engine. No other religious institution compares with it in its past and present political machinations. The general history of the Church was effectively summarised by Adolf Hitler: 'Worst of all, however, is the devastation wrought by *the misuse of religious conviction for political ends*.'⁵

'Omnipotence can only be safely directed by omniscience, and the papacy, in grasping at the former, unfortunately was unable to command the latter.'⁶ For example, 'To give a man over without warning to Satan for collecting toll from an ecclesiastic on crossing a bridge would seem but a slender exercise of Christian charity, and yet such was the use made by the church of the *illimitable power* which it *claimed* to enjoy under the special ordinance of God.'⁷

Consequently, 'In extolling the papal system ... our praise must be limited by the recollection that the chief object of ecclesiastical policy was the aggrandizement of the Church, not the promotion of civilization ... There was no far-reaching, no persistent

¹ For financial reasons alone, as is revealed in a later volume.

² Cramp, J M. *A Text-Book of Popery: Comprising A Brief History of the Council of Trent, and a Complete View of Roman Catholic Theology* (3rd edn) pp12-13. Emphases added. The single paragraph has been broken up for greater clarity.

³ Mauri. *Vatican Ratline: The Vatican, the Nazis, and the New World Order*. p64

⁴ All emphases in this Introduction have been added.

⁵ Hitler, Adolf. *Mein Kampf*. Vol 1. Ch 10 'Causes of the Collapse'. Emphasis added.

⁶ Lea, Henry Charles. *Studies in Church History: The Rise of the Temporal Power – Benefit of Clergy – Excommunication – The Early Church and Slavery*. p451

⁷ *Ibid*. pp458-59

plan to ameliorate the physical condition of the nations. Nothing was done to favor their intellectual development; indeed, on the contrary, it was the settled policy to keep them not merely illiterate, but ignorant. Century after century passed away, and *left the peasantry but little better than the cattle in the fields.*¹

‘Catholicism, as a system for promoting the well-being of man, had plainly failed in justifying its alleged origin; its performance had not corresponded to its great pretensions; and, after an opportunity of more than a thousand years’ duration, it had left the masses of men submitted to its influences, both as regards physical well-being and intellectual culture, in a condition far lower than what it ought to have been.’² Even in the seventeenth century, *ninety percent of the people of Europe were still unable to read.*³

Theological Embellishments

Over the centuries, Catholic theological and religious creations and/or embellishments (faith, sin, Hell, Purgatory, Limbo, the Devil, demons, witches, indulgences, the seven Sacraments, and the like) mushroomed into overwhelming controlling dominance.

A measure of this inclination of the Church is that within this volume the frequency of occurrence of the following words occurs:

demon(s), demonic	56
devil, Satan, satanic	112
faith	208
theology, theologic(al), theologian(s), theocracy	308

Sin, Hell, Purgatory, Limbo, the Devil, demons, witches, indulgences, and the seven Sacraments are examined in this volume.

The Church had become ‘overwhelmed with so many abuses and diseases ...’⁴ that eventually there developed ‘the conclusion that Catholicism had ... become a vast system of delusion and imposture.’⁵

For centuries, immorality was rife within the Church. For example, ‘Heretics were encouraged in their opposition’⁶ to the Church by the endemic licentiousness of ecclesiastics from the popes down. Pope Innocent VIII, for instance, ‘was credited with sixteen illegitimate children.’⁷

¹ Draper, John William. *History of the Conflict between Religion and Science*. Ch 10 ‘Latin Christianity in Relation to Modern Civilization’

² Draper, John William. *History of the Conflict between Religion and Science*. Ch 10 ‘Latin Christianity in Relation to Modern Civilization’

³ McCabe, Joseph. *The Story of Religious Controversy*. Ch I. Emphasis added.

⁴ Draper, John William. *History of the Conflict between Religion and Science*. Ch X

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Lea, Henry Charles. *History of Sacerdotal Celibacy in the Christian Church*. Vol I. pp412-13

⁷ Ibid. p429

Clerical paedophilia is endemic in the Church. The Church's indigenous denials are prompted by its need to avoid scandal. In canon law, 'avoiding scandal' means technically 'not providing another person with an occasion of sin.'¹

General Immorality of the Church

Additionally, hordes of monks, friars, abbots, and the like lived a parasitic life:

In this investigation of the influence of Catholicism, we must carefully keep separate what it did for the people and what it did for itself. When we think of the state-ly monastery, an embodiment of luxury, with its closely-mown lawns, its gardens and bowers, its fountains and many murmuring streams, we must connect it not with the ague-stricken peasant dying without help in the fens, but with the abbot, his ambling palfrey, his hawk and hounds, his well-stocked cellar and larder ...²

In 1521, Martin Luther exclaimed:

Finally criminals can neither be reproved, nor accused, nor punished, except by the pope, who could not if he would, and now does not wish to. From this prolific source arises their iniquity; hence the debaucheries, the adulteries, the fornications, the uncleanness, the avarice, the fraud, the swindling, the universal chaos of crime, which not only abounds but reigns everywhere, unpunished and unchecked by fear of God or man. If any one reproves them, he is guilty of sacrilege and of treason to the pope. All this arises from those accursed laws which exempt the clergy and all belonging to them from secular accusation, trial, and punishment ...³

The key aspects of the entire resulting disaster were: the gradually increasing perceptions of the widespread immorality of the Church from the popes down; and the bigoted determination of the Church to distort Christianity, to suppress meaningful enquiry and justice, and to control the population for its own ends. Thereby, 'the Church, after the long struggle which finally left it supreme over Europe, contented itself with the worldly advantages derivable from the wealth and authority which surpassed its anticipations.'⁴

The pages of history reveal that Catholicism 'is not a religious body like any other, and the venerable antiquity of which it is so proud merely recalls, to the informed mind, the violence and unscrupulousness of the methods by means of which it has survived. Its path through the ages is marked, not by the flowering of new cultures or new civilizations, but by the graves of rival religions and of masses of rebels.'⁵ Overall, it can be truly said that Christianity has been the bloodiest and most merciless religion,

¹ *La Croix International*. <https://international.la-croix.com/news/vatican-insists-on-cardinal-ladarias-immunity-in-barbarin-affair/8660#> (2019); *Complicit Clergy*: <http://www.complicitclergy.com/2018/10/22/vatican-invokes-immunity-for-cardinal-implicated-in-sex-abuse-coverup/> (2019)

² Draper, John William. *History of the Conflict between Religion and Science*. p283

³ Lea, Henry Charles. *Studies in Church History: The Rise of the Temporal Power – Benefit of Clergy – Excommunication – The Early Church and Slavery*. p221. Citing: Lutheri Opp.T. II. fol. 374 a. (Jenae 1581).

⁴ Lea, Henry Charles. *History of Sacerdotal Celibacy in the Christian Church*. Vol I. pp442-43

⁵ McCabe, Joseph. *The Artistic Sterility of the Church*

and has caused more undeserved misery than any other religion, and that *Roman Catholicism has been the bloodiest and most merciless denomination of Christianity*.¹

The Church's practices have been, and are, so persistently unChristlike, that over its history its influence for good has been outweighed by its influence for evil, and, from the gruesome record of evil which is recorded in its pages, a reasonable, impartial person, when acquainted with the historically documented facts of the Cimmerian side of the Church, could justifiably ask 'Could a church devoted to the Devil have a record of trauma and horror greater than that of the Church of Rome?'

Accordingly, Robert Cardinal Bellarmine (1542-1621), a Jesuit, admitted that the papacy had almost eliminated Christianity. 'For some years before Luther and Calvin there was in the Church almost no religion left.'² Inexorably, this endemic disease led to the rise of rebels, apostates, heretics, and heresies. 'Protestantism arose from the opposition to much that was undeniably evil and defective in the Church, and this is its merit'.³

Summary

Catholic religious creations, embellishments, and their exploitation (sin, Limbo, Purgatory, the Devil, demons, succubi, incubi, witches, saints, relics, indulgences, and the like), which led to opposition by deviants, are introduced in this volume and examined in Volume 7.

The Inquisition was then created to disenchant these freethinkers, and, when that failed, to exterminate them. This evil, uncharitable institution, in its many manifestations, is examined in a later volume.

Predictably, Catholic casuists continue to attempt to downgrade the activities of the Inquisition – for example, emphasising 'The Black Legend'⁴ and trivialising the Church's treatment of Galileo.⁵ These attempts are examined in a still later volume.

¹ Refer, for example, to Volumes 1 to 4 of this series for substantiation of the statement.

² de Rosa, Peter. *Vicars of Christ: The Dark Side of the Papacy*. p120

³ Dalberg-Acton, John Emerich Edward. *Essays on Church and State*. p75

⁴ See, for example: *New Catholic Encyclopedia*. Vol 7. p491, Vol 8. p341

⁵ Particularly so by Karol Józef Wojtyła (Pope John Paul II).

Volume 6 – Appendices to Volume 5

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Volume 7 – The Inquisition – Prelude II: Sin, Soul, Sex, Saints, Superstitions, Wickedness, Witches, Wizards, Warlocks, Werewolves, Obsessions, Delusions, Propaganda and Credulity: preliminaries to Apostasy and Heresy

There is no religion in which everyday life is not considered a prison; there is no philosophy or ideology that does not think that we live in alienation.
Eugene Ionesco

With or without religion, you would have good people doing good things and evil people doing evil things. But for good people to do evil things, that takes religion. Steven Weinberg

Theology is the effort to explain the unknowable in terms of the not worth knowing. H L Mencken

There are lies, damned lies, and theology. Anon.

In contrast to the gentle simplicity of the biblical Jesus' life and precepts, history reveals that Roman Catholicism ceased early to be the Christianity of Christ – a religion of 'good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people'.¹

It 'had unhappily parted with its ancient purity and simplicity.'² Instead, it espoused Pagan complexity and embraced Imperial Roman ambitions, organisation, administration and paraphernalia. These actions resulted in the rise of over-whelming power and the control of Western society by the popes and their church.

Catholicism an Obsessive Religion

In the process, Catholicism became, and still is, a religion of sin. Its three major obsessions are sin, soul and sex. Almost all its other obsessions are derived from, or are variants of these three.

It is, in fact, a sin-obsessed, guilt-oriented, fearful, autocratic, dissimulative, restrictive, vindictive, evil, fictitious Christianity – effectively, a sinianity. It is marked by the 'prostitution of the name and authority of Christ by those who professed to be acting in His name and for His cause.'³ It developed an 'all-pervading corruption' 'in which the spirit of the Gospel was lost in the all-absorbing interests of the temporal power'⁴ and wealth.

Consequently, over centuries, the popes and other clerics, with the assistance of

¹ Luke 2:10

² *A Brief History of the Moravian Church: A Series of Papers Prepared by Teachers of the Salem Home Sunday School for the Use in Classes.* p11

³ Lea, Henry Charles. *Studies in Church History: The Rise of the Temporal Power – Benefit of Clergy – Excommunication – The Early Church and Slavery.* p420

⁴ Ibid. p421

innumerable inventive theologians,¹ created ‘that singular *polytheism*, which had been grafted on Christianity’,² and which became the pseudoChristianity³, ‘that newer form of Paganism called Christianity’,⁴ and known as Roman Catholicism – that was, and is ‘religiously corrupt, and politically dangerous.’⁵

Petrine Theory and the Fiction of Apostolic Succession

The papal system has been developed by the creation of many claims not founded on Christian Holy Scripture. There are several important facts contradicting the developed fabrication of the primacy of the Roman Church and its bishop:

Peter was the only Apostle called ‘Satan’ by Jesus (*Matthew* 16:23) (*Mark* 8:32) (*Luke* 4:8).

Peter was described as the man who smote with his sword the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear (*Matthew* 26:51) (*Mark* 14:47) (*Luke* 22:50) (*John* 18:10).

Peter has been interpreted as having been involved in the deaths of Ananias and his wife Sapphira (*Acts* 5:1-10).

Peter was the one who denied Christ three times (*Matthew* 26:75) (*Mark* 14:72) (*Luke* 22:61) (*John* 13:38).

The Bible does not teach that Peter had primacy among the Apostles. He was, in fact, no more than their equal.

Christian Holy Scripture does not provide for the perpetuation of the apostolic office. Especially, it does not provide for any successors to Peter’s alleged primacy.

The scriptures do not teach that the successor must always be the bishop of the church in Rome. Nor that the Roman church had bishops.

Neither do the scriptures teach that the Church of Rome was to be the reservoir or preserver of apostolic teaching.^{6,7}

Papal Power

History reveals that the popes attained their power with the aid of invincible ignorance, fraud, and superstition, and consistently strove to perpetuate the sources of their

¹ Theology, so aptly described by H L Mencken: ‘Theology is the effort to explain the unknowable in terms of the not worth knowing.’

² Hallam, Henry. *History of Europe during the Middle Ages*. Vol II. p228

³ So described by Monsignor Dr Rafael Rodríguez Guillén. <http://christianprogress.com/biography.htm> (2011).

⁴ Wheless, Joseph. *Forgery in Christianity: A Documented Record of the Foundations of the Christian Religion*. Ch VI ‘The Church Forgery Mill’.

⁵ Dalberg-Acton, John Emerich Edward. *Essays on Freedom and Power*. p189

⁶ <http://www.bible.ca/history/eubanks/history-eubanks-15.htm> (2010)

⁷ Lehmann, L H. *Out of the Labyrinth*

power and influence.

This remark will be justified by a glance at the chronology of corruption ... human tradition and will-worship had made considerable progress when Constantine ascended the imperial throne. Monasticism, which was first practised in the third century, was established in the fourth; in the fifth, prayers were offered to saints, pictures placed in churches, incense used in them, and the doctrine of purgatory began to be taught; the exclusive use of the Latin language in public worship was enjoined in the seventh; image worship triumphed over opposition in the eighth; transubstantiation was invented in the ninth; indulgences were given as early as the tenth, and came generally into use, till the system was perfected in the fourteenth by Pope Clement VI; the rosary and the scapular, the adoration of the sacramental elements, the universal duty and necessity of auricular confession, the inquisitions and numerous minor abominations, are dated in the thirteenth century in which age, the forced celibacy of the clerical order,¹ so long the subject of fierce contentions, was finally established; the first [profitable] jubilee was established in 1300, and in that and the following century very many festivals were established in honour of supposed saints, and the finishing touches were given to the fabric of superstition.²

Ultimately, the Church's annals disclose that those things that have concerned its leaders most have been 'property, power, and obedience'.³ For example, during the reign of Innocent III: 'The Church flourished and throve in his days, holding the lordship over the Roman Empire and over all the kings and princes of the whole world.'⁴

The Church a Political Corporation

Catholic Encyclopedia states that 'The Church is a worldwide corporation ... Her members all over the world are united by ... *obedience* to a common authority.'⁵ Effectively, therefore, the Church is, in today's terms, an exploitive, repressive multinational corporation.

Additionally, the Church is a political engine. No other religious institution compares with it in its past and present political machinations. The general history of the Church was effectively summarised by Adolf Hitler: 'Worst of all, however, is the devastation wrought by *the misuse of religious conviction for political ends*.'⁶

'Omnipotence can only be safely directed by omniscience, and the papacy, in grasping at the former, unfortunately was unable to command the latter.'⁷ For example,

¹ For financial reasons alone.

² Cramp, J M. *A Text-Book of Popery: Comprising A Brief History of the Council of Trent, and a Complete View of Roman Catholic Theology* (3rd edn) pp12-13

³ Mauri. *Vatican Ratline: The Vatican, the Nazis, and the New World Order*. p64

⁴ Coulton, G G. *From Francis to Dante*. p273

⁵ All emphases in this Introduction have been added.

⁶ Hitler, Adolf. *Mein Kampf*. Vol 1. Ch 10 'Causes of the Collapse'. Emphasis added.

⁷ Lea, Henry Charles. *Studies in Church History: The Rise of the Temporal Power – Benefit of Clergy* –

‘To give a man over without warning to Satan for collecting toll from an ecclesiastic on crossing a bridge would seem but a slender exercise of Christian charity, and yet such was the use made by the church of the *illimitable power* which it *claimed* to enjoy under the special ordinance of God.’¹

Consequently, ‘In extolling the papal system ... our praise must be limited by the recollection that the chief object of ecclesiastical policy was the aggrandizement of the Church, not the promotion of civilization ... There was no far-reaching, no persistent plan to ameliorate the physical condition of the nations. Nothing was done to favor their intellectual development; indeed, on the contrary, it was the settled policy to keep them not merely illiterate, but ignorant. Century after century passed away, and *left the peasantry but little better than the cattle in the fields.*’²

A little revealing portrait:

Also that year [1253] died St Robert Grosseteste, bishop of Lincoln, the ninth day of October. He was cunning in all the liberal arts, and specially he expounded many things in logic, ethics, and astrology. He sent to the fourth Pope Innocent an epistle sharp enough that beginneth in this manner, “Our Lord Jesus Christ.” He sent that epistle for that the pope grieved the churches of England with taxes and with payments undue and uncustomable. Also, for that he had given his little nephew a canonry which first voided in the church of Lincoln. And this Robert would not receive the child, but he wrote to the pope and said that he neither would neither should put such to the cure of souls that could not rule himself. Therefore this Robert was summoned to the [Pope’s] court and accursed; then from Innocent’s court he appealed to Christ’s own throne. Then after Robert his death, it happed in a night that the pope lay in his bed for to rest, a bishop appeared to him arrayed as a bishop, and spake to the pope and said, “Arise, wretch, and come to thy doom”; and smote him with his cross in the left side right to the heart; then on the morrow the pope’s bed was found bloody, and the pope dead; therefore, though Robert was a noble man, and did often miracles, the court suffered him not to be canonised.³

Ignorance Prevailed

‘Catholicism, as a system for promoting the well-being of man, had plainly failed in justifying its alleged origin; its performance had not corresponded to its great pretensions; and, after an opportunity of more than a thousand years’ duration, it had left the masses of men submitted to its influences, both as regards physical well-being and

Excommunication – The Early Church and Slavery. p451

¹ Lea, Henry Charles. *Studies in Church History: The Rise of the Temporal Power – Benefit of Clergy – Excommunication – The Early Church and Slavery.* pp458-59

² Draper, John William. *History of the Conflict between Religion and Science.* Ch 10 ‘Latin Christianity in Relation to Modern Civilization’

³ Trevisa’s Higden. Source: *Life in the Middle Ages* (trans G G Coulton) Vol II. pp34-35

intellectual culture, in a condition far lower than what it ought to have been.’¹ Even in the seventeenth century, *ninety percent of the people of Europe were still unable to read*.²

Catholicism – a vast System of Delusion and Imposture

Over the centuries, Catholic theological and religious creations and/or embellishments (faith, sin, Hell, Purgatory, Limbo, the Devil, demons, witches, indulgences, the seven Sacraments, and the like) mushroomed into overwhelming controlling dominance.

The Church had become ‘overwhelmed with so many abuses and diseases ...’³ that eventually there developed ‘the conclusion that Catholicism had ... become a vast system of delusion and imposture.’⁴

The key aspects of the entire resulting disaster were: the gradually increasing perceptions of the widespread immorality of the Church from the popes down; and the bigoted determination of the Church to distort Christianity, to suppress meaningful enquiry and justice, and to control the population for its own ends. Thereby, ‘the Church, after the long struggle which finally left it supreme over Europe, contented itself with the worldly advantages derivable from the wealth and authority which surpassed its anticipations.’⁵

The pages of history reveal that Catholicism ‘is not a religious body like any other, and the venerable antiquity of which it is so proud merely recalls, to the informed mind, the violence and unscrupulousness of the methods by means of which it has survived. Its path through the ages is marked, not by the flowering of new cultures or new civilizations, but by the graves of rival religions and of masses of rebels.’⁶ Overall, it can be truly said that Christianity has been the bloodiest and most merciless religion, and has caused more undeserved misery than any other religion, and that *Roman Catholicism has been the bloodiest and most merciless denomination of Christianity*.⁷

The Church’s practices have been, and are, so persistently unChristlike, that over its history its influence for good has been outweighed by its influence for evil, and, from the gruesome record of evil which is recorded in its pages, a reasonable, impartial person, when acquainted with the historically documented facts of the Cimmerian side of the Church, could justifiably ask ‘Could a church devoted to the Devil have a record of trauma and horror greater than that of the Church of Rome?’

Accordingly, Robert Cardinal Bellarmine (1542-1621), a Jesuit, admitted that the papacy had almost eliminated Christianity. ‘For some years before Luther and Calvin

¹ Draper, John William. *History of the Conflict between Religion and Science*. Ch 10 ‘Latin Christianity in Relation to Modern Civilization’

² McCabe, Joseph. *The Story of Religious Controversy*. Ch I. Emphasis added.

³ Draper, John William. *History of the Conflict between Religion and Science*. Ch X

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Lea, Henry Charles. *History of Sacerdotal Celibacy in the Christian Church*. Vol I. pp442-43

⁶ McCabe, Joseph. *The Artistic Sterility of the Church*

⁷ Refer, for example, to Volumes 1 to 4 of this series for substantiation of this statement.

there was in the Church almost no religion left.’¹ Inexorably, this endemic disease led to the rise of rebels, apostates, heretics, and heresies. ‘Protestantism arose from the opposition to much that was undeniably evil and defective in the Church, and this is its merit’.²

Summary

Catholic religious creations, embellishments, and their exploitation (sin, Limbo, Purgatory, the Devil, demons, succubi, incubi, witches, saints, relics, indulgences, and the like), which led to opposition by deviants, are examined in this volume.

The Inquisition was then created to disenchant these freethinkers, and, when that failed, to exterminate them. This evil, uncharitable institution, in its many manifestations, is examined in significant detail in a later volume.

Predictably, Catholic casuists continue to attempt to downgrade the activities of the Inquisition – for example, emphasising ‘The Black Legend’³ and trivialising the Church’s treatment of Galileo.⁴ These attempts are examined in a still later volume.

¹ de Rosa, Peter. *Vicars of Christ: The Dark Side of the Papacy*. p120

² Dalberg-Acton, John Emerich Edward. *Essays on Church and State*. p75

³ See, for example: *New Catholic Encyclopedia*. Vol 7. p491, Vol 8. p341

⁴ Particularly so by Karol Józef Wojtyła (Pope John Paul II).

Volume 8 – The Inquisition – Prelude III: The Triumph of Intolerance and the Rise of Catholic Persecution

This volume examines the Church's rationale for the existence and operations of the unholy organisation that eventually came to be known as 'The Holy Roman and Universal Inquisition'. It may be summarised by the following four statements:

1. Our Church was created by our God and is the only true church. Our faith is the only true faith, and is free from error. What we, the Catholic Church, believe and teach is true. Our magisterium guarantees this.
2. If anyone believes otherwise they are in error – they sin.
3. We are authorised by our beliefs, tradition, and magisteriums to eliminate error, and to force those who sin by their error to believe what we believe.¹
4. We will ensure that those persons who continue to sin by remaining in error will suffer dire consequences in this life,² and our God will perpetually punish them in the next.

The Theological Basis

By way of example:

'I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but *he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.*' *Matthew 3:11-12.*

From the *Douay-Rheims Bible*: 'And I saw a great white throne and one sitting upon it, from whose face the earth and heaven fled away: and there was no place found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing in the presence of the throne. And the books were opened: and another book was opened, which was the book of life. And the dead were judged by those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead that were in it: and death and hell gave up their dead that were in them. And they were judged, every one according to their works. And hell and death were cast into the pool of fire. This is the second death. And *whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the pool of fire.*' *Revelation 20:11-15.*

Hell – a Place for the Damned

The significance of Hell as a place of eternal damnation, and a consequence of

¹ Only Christianity and Islam have engendered movements that are committed to the systematic use of force to achieve their universal goals. Gray, John. *Black Mass: Apocalyptic Religion and the Death of Utopia*. p71. Quoted in: Rowe, Dorothy. *What Should I Believe? Why Our Beliefs about the Nature of Death and the Purpose of Life Dominate Our Lives*. p273

² Consider, for example: 'If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and *men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*' *John 15:6*

unrepentant sinning, is emphasised in *New Catholic Encyclopedia*'s 2775 words' article 'Hell (Theology of)'. It acknowledges that 'the concept of sin has its proper function within the theological idea of hell.' It is one aspect of God's recognition of human historicity, as repentance is the other. Classical Western theology 'approached the problem of hell mainly from the angle of retribution for sin.' This was the avenue down which the Inquisition travelled:

... it is impossible to soften the severity of Jesus' warning against unrepented sin, and the sentimentalism that seeks to do so is a distortion of His teaching and that of the New Testament as a whole. The chief characteristic of hell, as depicted in the New Testament, is *its fire that is unquenchable* (Mt 3.12; Mk 9.43; Lk 3.17) and everlasting (Mt 18.8; 25.41; Jude 7).¹

Catholic Encyclopedia ('Hell') states:

There is a hell, i.e. all those who die in personal mortal sin, as enemies of God, and unworthy of eternal life, *will be severely punished by God* after death ... The Holy Bible is quite explicit in teaching the eternity of the pains of hell. *The torments of the damned shall last forever and ever* (Apoc. [Revelation], xiv, 11; xix, 3; xx, 10).

The Imposed Burden of the Concept of Sin

It has been justifiably said that the burden of Catholicism is guilt, and that of Judaism is grief.

As exemplified above, the major guilt of Catholics arises from the emphasis on sin. The concept of sin is explained in *Catholic Encyclopedia* 'Salvation':

As *sin is the greatest evil*, being the root and source of all evil, Sacred Scripture uses the word 'salvation' mainly in the sense of liberation of the human race or of individual man from sin and its consequences ...²

Sin and the promoted need for repentance are Roman Catholicism's two great obsessions. The emphasis on sin and guilt has been the most effective of the Church's control mechanisms over its believers and others. They comprise the Church's ultimate dominance fetish. In *New Catholic Encyclopedia* the word 'sinful' occurs 449 times, and 'sin' 3626 times.

Heresy

A working Catholic definition of heresy is that attributed to the thirteenth century Bishop of Lincoln, Robert Grosseteste:

Heresy is an opinion chosen by human faculties, contrary to Holy Scripture, openly taught, and pertinaciously defended.³

New Catholic Encyclopedia explains:

¹ Emphases added in these two examples.

² Emphasis added.

³ *New Catholic Encyclopedia* <https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/inquisition> (2018)

That is, heresy was heterodox religious doctrine discovered by purely human error, contrary to *orthodox authoritative teaching*, but also openly taught (not secretly held) and persisted in *after authoritative correction* (and therefore pertinacious, a willful and public denial of *the teaching authority of the Church*). In the thirteenth century heresy was also described by churchmen as contumacious – openly contemptuous of ecclesiastical authority.¹

Apostasy

Heresy differs from apostasy. The apostate a fide abandons wholly the faith of Christ either by embracing Judaism, Islamism, Paganism, or simply by falling into naturalism and complete neglect of religion; the heretic always retains faith in Christ.²

The Catholic Perspective of the Inquisition

The Inquisition was a Roman Catholic tribunal instituted for the discovery and punishment of those whose beliefs and actions the Church classed as heresy (‘heretical pravity’) and apostasy.

New Catholic Encyclopedia (‘Inquisition’) describes it as:

A form of legal procedure best known for its adoption by papally appointed inquisitors “of heretical depravity” in the thirteenth century and institutionalized in Spain and elsewhere in the late fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. It was distinguished by the severity of its questioning and punishment and the lack of rights provided to the accused.

Catholic Encyclopedia (‘Inquisition’) is more detailed:

By this term is usually meant a special ecclesiastical institutional for combating or suppressing heresy. Its characteristic mark seems to be the bestowal on special judges of judicial powers in matters of faith, and this by supreme ecclesiastical authority, not temporal or for individual cases, but as a universal and permanent office. Moderns experience difficulty in understanding this institution, because they have, to no small extent, lost sight of two facts.

On the one hand they have ceased to grasp religious belief as something objective, as the gift of God, and therefore outside the realm of free private judgment;³ on the other they no longer see in the Church a society perfect and sovereign, based substantially on a pure and authentic Revelation, whose first most important duty must naturally be to retain unsullied this original deposit of faith ...

However, while the positive suppression of heresy by ecclesiastical and civil authority in Christian society is as old as the Church, the Inquisition as a distinct ecclesiastical tribunal is of much later origin.⁴

¹ So confirming of, and conforming to the first two rationales introduced above.

² *Catholic Encyclopedia* ‘Heresy’

³ It is **not** a fact that religious belief is outside the realm of free private judgement. Indeed, history reveals the converse – *true* religious belief *is* a private awareness.

⁴ Emphases added.

The Concept was Developed by Innocent III

Innocent III, in a decretal letter, *Licet Heli*, of 10 December 1199, addressed the problems then current of clerical misbehaviour and prelatal negligence in not imposing discipline on criminous clerks, ‘against whom, so that notorious excesses shall cease, there are three kinds of procedure possible: accusation, denunciation, and inquisition about them.’¹

Innocent pursued alleged heretics relentlessly. He adjudged that ‘anyone who attempted to construe a personal view of God which conflicted with Church dogma must be burned without pity.’² Also, his instruction was to ‘Use against heretics the spiritual sword of excommunication, and if this does not prove effective, use the material sword.’³ Consequently, he has been described as having ‘inaugurated *the practice of murdering people who would not profess to believe what they did not believe*.’⁴ He also declared the Church to be a state, thereby making heresy a crime against the state.⁵

By 1255, the Inquisition was in operating throughout Central and Western Europe; although it was never instituted in England or Scandinavia.

During the Late Middle Ages and early Renaissance, the concept and scope of the Inquisition expanded significantly in response to the Protestant Reformation.

The non-Catholic Condemnation

Joseph McCabe, a former Professor of Catholic Theology, referred to the Inquisition as:

the most scandalous quasi-judicial procedure that ever disgraced civilization.

In his *A history of the holy Catholic Inquisition*, Cyrus Mason justifiably described the Inquisition as:

the greatest monument of human genius, human wickedness, ... that was ever reared.⁶

Additionally:

It has been the scourge of the world, and the most corrupt engine ever wielded.⁷

This sanguinary institution possessed dungeons called ‘Holy Houses.’⁸

Physically, ‘Many prisoners were ill-treated ... Not infrequently prisoners were put

¹ *New Catholic Encyclopedia* ‘Inquisition’

² Ellerbe, Helen. *The Dark Side of Christian History*: p77

³ http://www.positiveatheism.org/hist/quotes/scar_h.htm

⁴ McCabe, Joseph. *The Story of Religious Controversy*: Ch XXVI ‘The Renaissance: A European Awakening’. Emphasis added.

⁵ <http://www2.evansville.edu/ecoleweb/glossary>

⁶ Mason, Cyrus. *A History of the Holy Catholic Inquisition: Compiled from Various Authors*. pp13-14. Emphasis added.

⁷ Ibid. p30

⁸ Ibid. p15

in chains.’¹ ‘The severities of prison life led to a regular death-rate that could be attributed ... to disease and unhealthy conditions.’²

Notwithstanding the *Encyclopedia’s* comments above, the Dutch Remonstrant³ theologian Philippus van Limborch (1633-1712), in his *The History of the Inquisition* (*Historia Inquisitionis*), sets the scene for this, and many of the volumes of this series, by examining the horrendous operations of the Christian Church:

If any person was to judge of the nature and spirit of the Christian religion, by the spirit and conduct only of too many who have professed to believe it in all nations, and almost throughout all ages of the Christian Church, he could scarce fail to censure it as *an institution unworthy the God of order and peace*, subversive of the welfare and happiness of societies, and designed to enrich and aggrandize a few only, at the expence of the liberty, reason, consciences, substance, and lives of others. For what confusions and calamities, what ruins and desolations, what rapines and murders, have been introduced into the world, *under the pretended authority of Jesus Christ*, and supporting and propagating Christianity?⁴

Confirmingly, historian W E H Lecky showed in his *History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe*: ‘how injurious have been the effects of the doctrine of exclusive salvation.’⁵

Power over Others was the Ultimate Reason for the Creation of the Inquisition

The words of Johann von Döllinger (1799-1890) are salient to an understanding of this evil side of the history of the Church and its papacy. Döllinger was educated in philosophy and Catholic theology, and became Professor of Church History at the University of Munich. For six years, he acted as personal tutor to the future Lord Acton. He was ‘the most famous of his day and a fine theologian.’⁶ Johann von Döllinger wrote:

All absolute power demoralizes its possessor. To that all history bears witness. And if it be a spiritual power, which rules men’s consciences, the danger is only so much greater, for the possession of such a power exercises a specially treacherous fascination, while it is peculiarly conducive to self-deceit, – because the lust of dominion, when it has become a passion, is only too easily in this case excused under the plea of zeal for the salvation of others.⁷

In a similar vein, Acton penned his famous summary that is so applicable to the inquisitorial popes:

Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are

¹ Kamen, Henry. *The Spanish Inquisition: An Historical Revision*. p188

² Ibid.

³ Remonstrants were Dutch Protestants who, after the death of Jacobus Arminius (1560-1609), continued to maintain the views associated with his name.

⁴ Limborch, Philippus van. *The History of the Inquisition*. p17. Emphases added.

⁵ Lecky, W E H. *History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe*. Vol II. p11

⁶ de Rosa. *Vicars of Christ: The Dark Side of the Papacy*. p458

⁷ Ibid. p459. Emphases added.

almost always bad men, even when they exercise influence and not authority: still more when you superadd the tendency or the certainty of corruption by authority. There is no worse heresy than that the office sanctifies the holder of it.¹

Consequently, the supreme motive of the Catholic Church has been, and is the maintenance and extension of its power through the implementation of the doctrine of exclusive salvation.² This reflects in its ever-present libido dominandi (lust for power), which demands control over others.³

New Catholic Encyclopedia (Inquisition) admits that:

growing papal concerns and increasing cooperation of secular authorities continued to develop what has been called a unique ‘technology of power.’

This obsession with power and perceived salvation circumvented humanity, morality, charity, justice, and democracy in the operations of the ubiquitous Inquisition; and the Catholic Church became rich as a consequence.

Finally

The words of the Roman Senator and historian Publius Cornelius Tacitus summarise the monstrous Inquisition:

A shocking crime was committed on the unscrupulous initiative of few individuals, with the blessing of more, and amid the passive acquiescence of all..

History clearly reveals that the Roman Catholic Church through the Inquisition and its many other iniquitous enterprises:

succeeded in establishing the absolute theocratic despotism *which diverted it so strangely from its proper spiritual function.*⁴

¹ Lord Acton. ‘Acton-Creighton Correspondence’. In: *Essays on Freedom and Power*: p335

² See, for example: Gage, Matilda Joslyn. *Woman, Church and State*. Ch X ‘Past, present, future’. Source: <http://www.sacred-texts.com/wmn/wcs/wcs12.htm> (2008)

³ de Rosa, Peter. *Vicars of Christ: The Dark Side of the Papacy*. p122

⁴ Lea, Henry Charles. *Studies in Church History: The Rise of the Temporal Power – Benefit of Clergy – Excommunication – The Early Church and Slavery*. p iii. Emphasis added.

Future Volumes

The Inquisition was created to disenchant freethinkers, and, when that failed, to exterminate them. This evil, uncharitable institution, in its many manifestations, is examined in these later volumes.

Predictably, Catholic casuists continue to attempt to downgrade the activities of the Inquisition – for example, emphasising ‘The Black Legend’¹ and trivialising the Church’s treatment of Galileo.² These attempts are examined in a still later volume.

The unholy behaviour over the centuries of ecclesiastics at all levels present a sorry picture of a claimed holy organisation.

The Militant Virgin in her many editions have been used to foster the faith of the credulous. She has her own volume.

The pernicious rise of priestly power over the powerless laity forms a fitting investigation in this sorry story.

Accordingly, the remainder of this squalid history involves the following volumes:

The Black Inquisition – Its Many Variants

The Black Inquisition – Its Methods

Casuistry and the Inquisition

Unholy Popes, Monks, and Other Ecclesiastics

Mary, ever Virgin – Her children; Her Fictionalisation and Mythical Versions;
Her Miraculous and Militant Powers

The Pernicious Rise of Priestly Power

Overall Summary and Conclusions

— * —

¹ See, for example: *New Catholic Encyclopedia*. Vol 7. p491, Vol 8. p341

² Particularly so, Karol Józef Wojtyła (Pope John Paul II).

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Alexander VI was the most infamous pope in history. ‘a man of most abandoned morals, deep duplicity, and unscrupulous ambition.’ ‘To describe him as the Genius of Evil ... is justifiable.’ The words of historian John Lothrop Motley could well apply to Alexander VI, ‘if there are vices – as possibly there are – from which he was exempt, it is because it is not permitted by human nature to attain perfection even in evil.’

In the ninth and tenth centuries, the monks of Verdun, France, did a prosperous trade in buying sons of the peasants of the region, castrating and rearing them, then selling them as eunuch slaves.¹

Cardinal Borgia, the son of Pope Alexander VI, was a warlord; is the only man known to history to whom a book on syphilis was dedicated; employed his own personal assassin, Don Michelotto; assassinated his own brother Juan; stabbed Alexander’s favourite boy to death; and ended his days in prison.

Giuseppe Garibaldi, leader of the ‘Risorgimento’, gave this testimony: ‘In Rome, in 1849, I myself visited every convent. I was present at all the investigations. Without a single exception we found instruments of torture, and a cellar with the bodies of infant children.’

‘In this investigation of the influence of Catholicism, we must carefully keep separate what it did for the people and what it did for itself. When we think of the stately monastery, an embodiment of luxury, ...we must connect it not with the ague-stricken peasant dying without help in the fens, but with the abbot, his ambling palfrey, his hawk and hounds, his well-stocked cellar and larder ...’

Christopher Columbus, a devout Catholic, encouraged his men to rape native women as young as nine or ten; he punished minor offences by cutting off the natives’ ears and noses; and used hunting dogs to tear the Indians apart.

¹ See, for example: Valante, Mary A. ‘Castrating Monks: Vikings, the Slave Trade, and the Value of Eunuchs’. *Castration and Culture in the Middle Ages*

To spread its empire, Catholic imperialism struck alliances with the military giants of the time: the Spanish Empire in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the French empire in the eighteenth, the Austro-Hungarian empire in the nineteenth, the German National Socialist (Nazi) organisation in the early twentieth,¹ and with the USA, a little later, in fomenting the Vietnam War as a means of establishing a base there to foster its spreading tentacles into Asia.

‘For them we have three million bullets. We shall kill one part of the Serbs. We shall deport another, and the rest of them will be forced to embrace the Roman Catholic religion. Thus, our new Croatia will get rid of all Serbs in our midst in order to become one hundred percent Catholic within ten years.’^{2,3}

‘The history of the church in Rwanda is interwoven with the state control apparatus. For 40 years this was the Catholic Church after independence. The Church did the bidding of the power elite. It took part in the genocide and many leaders were part of the planners.’ ‘People seeking refuge in churches were handed over to the Hutu militia members of the clergy.’⁴

The level of sexual immorality of ecclesiastic life in the Middle Ages may be gauged by the regulation of St Theodore Studita prohibiting the entrance of female animals to monasteries. Bishop Huldric wrote that priests had ‘not abstained from ... even brute beasts’.

In the Middle Ages, homosexuality was viewed as the ultimate in immorality. Consequently, the Spanish Inquisition was severe in its treatment of sodomisers. However, mildness was shown to members of the clergy, who always constituted a high proportion of offenders.

¹ Ample evidence of this Nazi association is given in Stockwell, Antony. *Pius XII: Fatal Manipulator of Men and Nations*

² The words of the devout Catholic, Dr Mile Budak, Doglavnik and Minister of Education and of Culture.

³ Kostić, Lazo M. *Holocaust in the 'Independent State of Croatia'*. Manhattan, Avro. *The Vatican's Holocaust: The Sensational Account of the Most Horrifying Religious Massacre of the 20th Century*

⁴ Nieuwoudt, Stephanie. ‘Rwanda: Church Role in Genocide Under Scrutiny’. Institute for War & Peace Reporting. <https://iwpr.net/global-voices/rwanda-church-role-genocide-under-scrutiny> (2020)

Pope Martin V initiated four Crusades against the Christian Hussites, during which whole towns and villages were butchered. In a letter to the King of Poland, he instructed, 'Know that the interests of the Holy See, and those of your crown make it a duty to exterminate the Hussites ... Turn your forces against Bohemia, burn, massacre, make deserts everywhere, for nothing can be more agreeable to God, or more useful to the cause of kings, than the extermination of the Hussites.'¹

¹ de Cormanin, L. *The Public and Private History of the Popes of Rome*. Vol II. pp116-17

Catechism of the Catholic Church definitively states that 'Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains for ever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right to directly destroy an innocent human being', hypocritically ignoring the fact that the Catholic Church has killed more human beings than any other organisation that has ever existed.

Using papal troops, Pope Boniface VIII annihilated the town of Palestrina, and had every man, woman, child and animal killed, and every building, except the cathedral, flattened.

Pope Leo X had his former lover Petrucci tortured daily on the rack. He was eventually strangled to death by Leo's official executioner 'Roland the Moor'. Then Leo sought out the entire family and friends of Petrucci and had them liquidated.

The Holy See had the Death Penalty as part of its own 'Basic Law' until 1969. Accordingly, the popes employed a succession of executioners for their Papal States. Giovanni Battista Bugatti was the official executioner from 1796 to 1865. He was retired at the age of 85 after having carried out a total of 516 homicides on behalf of six popes: Pius VI, Pius VII, Leo XII, Pius VIII, Gregory XVI, and Blessed Pius IX.

Pius XII, the 'masterly' diplomat, and politician, prayed to God for the success of the invasion of Russia by his early protégé Adolf Hitler; and was a major power in the instigation of the Vietnam War